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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH 2015

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Bridgend set to become a Valley council?

BRIDGEND County Borough Council (BCBC) is set to merge with Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) and Merthyr under Welsh Government plans, *writes PHILIP IRWIN*.

Leighton Andrews AM, the Public Services Minister, reaffirmed this week that he intends to press ahead with plans to cut the number of Welsh local authorities from 22 to either eight or nine.

The final number is irrelevant to Bridgend county borough, as in either case BCBC is set to join with RCT and Merthyr.

Mr Andrews says the changes could result in savings of £650 million, although there will be considerable redundancy costs at first, as between 1,400 and 1,900 jobs are expected to go.

For each individual council, job cuts would be between 60 and 80. However, this proposal could not become law until 2020, and it is dependent on Labour either getting an overall majority at next May's Assembly elections, or on Labour finding a coalition partner that supports the plan.

At the moment, none of the opposition parties do.

In Porthcawl, pressure groups were already registering their dismay on social media.

Those pressure groups felt that, as a coastal town, Porthcawl had more in common with the Vale – perhaps leaving BCBC to form a 'Heritage Coast' borough.It is not thought that this was an option that was considered by the Welsh Government.

Coun Sean Aspey, who represents a Porthcawl ward on BCBC, said that Porthcawl would make up only 3.7 per cent (by population) of the new merged borough, and he worried that, as a coastal town, it had nothing in common with landlocked areas like RCT and Merthyr.

Not for the first time, the talk in Porthcawl is of UDI! It was not long ago that BCBC and the Vale Council expressed a "mutual interest" in merging, but this was rejected by Leighton Andrews.

Mr Andrews was adamant that the Vale Council and Cardiff were a good fit, and voters in the Vale are now looking forward to the unusual sight of Labour's Coun Neil Moore and Andrew RT Davies, the Leaders (respectively) of the Vale Council and the Welsh Conservatives working as a team.

Coun Moore points to a recent Wales Audit Office report that ranked the Vale Council as the best run in Wales. He says that a merger with Cardiff could only dilute this.

Andrew RT Davies has said that he fears the Vale will be very much the junior partner in a union with Cardiff, and the Conservatives are promising to fight to "save the Vale".

CHRISTMAS COMES EARLY AT PRINCESS OF WALES!

Children's ward staff members at The Princess of Wales Hospital are pictured with Amazon representatives, patients and parents and some of the new items that were donated by the company. *(SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 3).*

'GP services under unprecedented pressure' – ABMU

THE pressures on GP services in the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University (ABMU) health board area were laid bare this week with the announcement that the health board lost four practices in the last 18 months.

In a statement, ABMU's director of primary and community services, Hilary Dover said: "The health board now has 73 practices, from the 77 in place 18 months ago."

She revealed that the health board has been given £627,000 by the Welsh Government to "address issues affecting GP practices".

The statement said: *"There is now a significant and increasing gap between the workload demands on GP practices and their ability to deliver core services to their registered patients.*

"The situation is exacerbated by wider factors such as population growth, particularly elderly people.

"The proportion of over-65s in the ABMU area is now 19 per cent, up nine per cent on the previous year."

Hilary Dover added: "There are recognised problems with the recruitment and retention of GPs nationally."

See next week's GEM for more on this issue.

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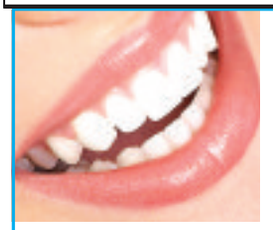
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'Stay longer, pay less' plan mooted by town traders

BRIDGEND traders' proposal to re-structure parking charges to encourage shoppers to stay longer are being backed by regional Tory AM Suzy Davies.

The Bridgend Town Traders Forum submitted proposals to BCBC, which would see parking get relatively cheaper for longer periods.

"At the moment, the first hour in short stay car parks cost 70p with an extra 80p charge if you wish to stay for a second hour and a £1 extra charge if you want to stay for three hours.

"This means that each successive hour is charged at a higher rate – 70p, 80p and then £1," she said.

Under the proposals, up to an hour would be £1, with 80p extra for the second hour and 70p for the third hour. They also suggest that the fine for overstaying be reduced to £5. This would mean people would be less worried about getting back to their cars.

Mrs Davies said: "We need some short-stay parking in the centre of Bridgend, which is why I support the de-pedestrianisation of part of the town, but traders also want to give motorists an incentive to stay longer in Bridgend.

"Making it cheaper the longer you stay could encourage people to visit more shops, and perhaps have a coffee or a meal during their visit. It's a way of spreading the spend around.

"The council needs to think laterally about its car parking strategy. It's no good treating it as a money pit – it should be used strategically to encourage people to shop in Bridgend and to support local businesses."

Coity WI members warned 'Beware of the fraudsters'

PRESIDENT Lyn Griffiths opened the recent Coity WI meeting and introduced the speakers to a packed hall.

Detective Constables Ian Roche and Tyrone Peach, from the economic crime unit, spoke about their work in financial investigation and opened our eyes to the extent of modern fraud and our own vulnerability.

Areas of fraud included card fraud, internet scams and phone scams, and doorstep callers, among many others.

Our level of awareness was raised and we were advised to take great care in our daily transactions: from simple precautions like being alert at the cashpoint, always looking for the padlock sign that ensures a website is secure, and never opening attachments to e-mails when you don't know the sender.

The message generally was, 'If it seems too good to be true, it probably is.'

After a vote of thanks to the speakers the meeting continued with business and information. We heard that there were a number of very successful activities in the last month – the luncheon club at Zia Nina's, organised by Heide Harris; the visit to Abbey Cwm Hir, organised by Teri Moore, and the silk painting at the craft class, taught by Ann Haddrill, were all appreciated by our members.

Activities we are looking forward to in December include the Link carol service at St David's church Pencoed on December, Christmas Lunch at Mumbles on December 3, the carol festival at the Brangwyn Hall, Swansea, on December 7; and the Cheltenham Christmas market on December 8.

We were delighted to hear that our far-sighted president has arranged a visit to RHS WIsley in the spring, and a theatre trip to the New Theatre, Cardiff, in February. Details will be received in due course.

The December meeting is an informal evening, with a party, when we will each bring a plate of food. We look forward to such delights as our committee have prepared for us, meeting on December 17 at Gilead Hall at 7pm.

ES

Gwyl Cerdd Dant's place in Welsh culture

BRIDGEND AM Carwyn Jones has spoken about his recent experience of being 'Llywydd y Dydd', president of the day, at this year's Cerdd Dant Festival.

This year, Cerdd Dant Festival, Wales' biggest one-day festival, was held at the Grand Pavilion in Porthcawl.

The festival has an important place in Wales' heritage and is a celebration of Welsh culture. Competitors including both children and adults, compete folk dancing, instrumental solos and poetry recitals that are all accompanied by the traditional harp.

Mr Jones' said: "I was honoured to have been asked by the Cerdd Dant committee to be Llywydd y Dydd, especially this year, as the Cerdd Dant was in my constituency. It was fantastic for Porthcawl to stage the festival as it is an important part of our heritage and should be celebrated.

"As Llywydd y Dydd, I was delighted to welcome everyone to Porthcawl and to wish all the competitors well. I also enjoyed watching the folk dancing and harp competition. I am glad that I did not have to judge the competitors, as the standard was very high".

Mr Jones added: "I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those on the working committee group and the volunteers who worked so hard behind the scenes to ensure that the Cerdd Dant festival was a great success".

Free Christmas activities with the Bridgend Communities First

BRIDGEND Communities First has lots of free Christmas craft activities for all those aged 16 years and over in December.

On Tuesday, December 1 at Marlas Youth Centre in North Cornelly (10am–2.30pm), learn how to make your own jewellery and then find out how to wrap your gift.

Visit Westward Community Centre in Cefn Glas on Friday, December 4 (10am–12pm) and make Christmas centre pieces for your home.

Create your own Christmas cards and create wooden reindeer ornaments for your tree at Marlas Youth Centre in North Cornelly on Tuesday, December 8 from 10am–2.30pm.

Cook some homemade mince pies and other tasty Christmas treats at Vines Christian Centre in Bridgend on Thursday, December 10 (10am – 12pm).

On Tuesday, December 15, make some 3D snowflake decorations and Christmas table centres at Marlas Youth Centre in North Cornelly (10am–2.30pm).

Free to all those living in Bridgend Communities First areas, advanced booking is required. For further details, call 01656 815121.

BUSY, BUSY, BUSY CHOIR!

SINCE the last concert in July, Cor Bro Ogwr has been even more busy than usual.

On the social and fundraising front, we have had a fashion show provided by regular supporter, Samantha B in Ewenny, a candle demonstration and sale by PartyLite, and a trip to Gloucester Christmas Market; our social committee is pulling out all stops!

Our 'come and sing' morning, which took place on October 17, proved successful and enjoyable.

While our main aim was to recruit new members, we had planned a morning to engage the choir in singing familiar works and learning a short new piece. We welcomed a number of new faces we hope to see regularly at our Wednesday evening rehearsals in Tabernacle Church, Derwen Road, Bridgend.

All are welcome – you don't have to read music or undergo a voice test!

Our next concert will be on Friday, December 11 in All Saints Church, Porthcawl at 7pm (note earlier start and different day).

To get everyone ready for the festive season, we will be singing a varied programme; Mozart's Missa Brevis in D Major, Holst, Buxtehude, Robat Arwyn, Vaughan Williams and more.

The bass soloist is Ben Tomlin, who studied at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and sang at our summer concert.

Our organist is Glenn Crooks, the choir's regular accompanist.

Tickets from choir members, telephone 01656 65336; see www.cor-bro-ogwr.com.

DOMINIQUE SPEAREY

Christmas craft fayre

A CHRISTMAS craft fayre takes place on November 28 from 12pm-4pm at Tabernacl, Derwen Road, Bridgend.

There will be toys, cakes, health and beauty products, tombola and craft items. A few tables are available (£10); telephone 01656 646013 or email *fundraising@ybont.com.*

CAROLS AND CHRISTMAS MUSIC

TABERNACL Music Society's next concert will be a feast of Christmas music and carols, some with audience participation.

The choir, led by Matthew Nash and accompanied by Glen Crooks is pleased to welcome the RAF St Athan Voluntary Band, conducted by Alan Bourne. This evening takes place on Sunday, December 6 at 7pm in Tabernacl Chapel, Derwen Road, Bridgend. Tickets £10, students £5.

Speaker tells of 'getting high for the Rotary Club!'

Dr David Price, president Alan Reeks and Foundation chairman William Williams.

THE speaker at Bridgend Rotary's Foundation evening was Dr David Price, a past president of Cheltenham Rotary.

He has been a Rotarian for over 30 years and has held many posts in his club. He has always been involved with the organisation of its fundraising schemes and has deservedly been awarded multiple Paul Harris Fellowships for his efforts.

After retiring as a GP, he embarked on some more adventurous ways to raise money for Rotary charities. His talk on the evening was entitled 'Getting High for Rotary'. He entertained Bridgend Rotary Club and guests with his illustrated accounts of his climb to the top of Kilimanjaro in order to raise money for Polio Plus/End Polio Now.

His second adventure was to Everest base camp, to raise money for Rotarians' 'Eliminating Malaria' in Tanzania; over £10,000 was raised from sponsorship of his climbs.

The inspiring presentation and exciting photographs made for a wonderful evening for all those present. Dr David Price's dedication to fundraising reinforced the Rotary ideal of 'Service above Self'.

A raffle was held, with prizes donated by local companies. All proceeds will be donated to the Rotary Foundation.

'Know the enemy'

IT is not enough for us to track down and neutralise present Isis murderers; in order to defeat the ideas in their head, which they might well pass on to others, it is essential to understand them.

Because you detest them, is no reason not to understand them. That intimate knowledge of their motives, is our necessary first defence for the future.

It appears that western leaders only react as they guess how the western media will present the facts to their own population – like goodies and baddies in a cowboy film, all to establish the iron grip of media magnates over the minds of millions.

The Syrian War has been dragging on, sponsored by its more powerful backers, for four years. The correct time for the US, UK, France, and most hopefully, the EU, to discuss that Syrian war with Russia and Iran, was four years ago, before it became more intractable.

Not liking Russia and Iran is all the more reason to engage them in negotiation; for the obvious reason that destructive war cannot actually serve the best interest of any of the nations who are using factions in Syria as their own client force.

Foreign policy must always mean negotiating with nations whose interests are different from your own, rather than grandstanding for the applause of the TV public back home, who always see violence to one lot, as the best answer to violence from another lot.

Any fool can get agreement from your allies. Responsible politicians overcome hostility in enemies.

Neville Westerman, Brynna.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL DECEMBER 3)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
26 Thur	06.13	10.4	18.37	10.5
27 Fri	06.58	10.4	19.23	10.3
28 Sat	07.41	10.2	20.05	10.0
29 Sun	08.26	10.0	20.49	9.8
30 Mon	09.07	9.7	21.29	9.2
01 Tues	09.49	9.3	22.11	8.7
02 Wed	10.33	8.6	22.59	8.2
03 Thur	11.24	8.1	23.58	7.8

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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OKAYE! Children's ward bowled over as Christmas comes early!

ABOVE: Ward manager Kaye Aherne (on left) with Amazon's Sarah Rhoads, Cath Wintle, Erin McGeough and Richard Williams as they unpack the new equipment.

ABOVE: Mum Sharon Crews, of Bridgend, with nursery nurse Wendy Brooks and ward manager Kaye Aherne.

CHRISTMAS has come early for the children's ward at the Princess of Wales Hospital, thanks to staff at retail giant Amazon.

Representatives from the Neath Port Talbot-based firm visited the ward to deliver a bumper order of items – from flat screen TVs to a fish tank – that will help improve the facilities for sick children and their parents.

The Christmas wishlist had been drawn up by ward manager Kaye Aherne, who said she was humbled by the generosity the company had shown.

"I ordered so many things I can hardly remember, but everything I asked for is designed to make life better here.

"We wanted to update areas of our ward. It is not all about toys, but items like DVD players and headphones mean older children can listen to what they want to watch.

"We have fold-out beds for parents to be able to stay with their children as well as artwork and sofas for the parents' room to make the place more comfortable for families to spend time together," she said.

The donation came about after a visit to the ward by the firm last year when they gave Kaye £5,000 to spend with them.

"I was just blown away. I have bought all these things and I have still got £1,500 in the bank for the future. I can't tell you how grateful we all are for the generosity and support Amazon have given us. This will make a real difference."

Helping to deliver the items in person was Sarah Rhoads, general manager of the Fabian Way base, accompanied by staff members Cath Wintle, Richard Williams and Erin McGeough.

"My staff are passionate about giving back to the community. We're happy to have brought items that the ward can use to help make it a brighter and happier place for children.

"We are keen to give back, especially as a number of my employees have used the hospital's facilities in the past."

Mum Sharon Crews, whose son was being treated at the ward, said: "This is just a lovely donation, it is helping the parents and making a difference to the children's stay here."

Kaye and her staff are now looking forward to another major boost with the transformation of the children's play room by Bridgend-based Sony. It will be remodelled and given a complete makeover in time for Christmas.

"We are very lucky we receive such wonderful support – not only from big firms but also from the community," she said.

Coffee *with music and cakes* boosts charities

JANICE GREGORY, AM for Ogmore, opened a wonderful coffee morning at the Heronston Hotel for the Bridgend County Civic Charity on November 20.

Past and present nominated charities held stalls to sell and promote their own charity, including BAVO, who give advice and guidance and encourage volunteers to support all the different charities. There was plenty of coffee, tea and biscuits for everyone, with tasty cakes, pastries, sausage rolls and other tempting edibles prepared and cooked by the students from Heronsbridge School and Ysgol Bryn Castell, to purchase.

To top the morning, Llangewydd Junior School choir arrived (sponsored by Gwyn Jones Coaches, Bryncethin) and they were the pinnacle of the event and entertained to a very high standard all present, including parents and grandparents who love to see and hear these pupils perform and support the choir and the school.

Musical director Ms Bethan Hatch and headteacher Mrs Sue Davies, encourage the choir and fully support many of the Bridgend County Civic charity events.

Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council, Coun Mel Nott acknowledged that this was the start of the Christmas festivities and the Mayor, Coun Richard Young, thanked everyone for supporting the event and getting to know the local charities.

The next event is the 'Nearly Christmas Dinner' and 'Presentation Evening' at the Heronston Hotel on Saturday, December 12 at 7.30pm with tickets available at £21 per person.

The following event is the Civic Charity community carol service at St Mary's Church, Nolton, Bridgend on Wednesday, December 16 at 7pm, with a collection during the service for the charities.

Further information available from Mrs M Major, (01656 664105) or Coun Marlene Thomas (01656 871439). Everyone is welcome.

MM

Tory hits out at Assembly spending cuts

THE Conservative Assembly candidate for Bridgend, George Jabbour has hit out at damaging cuts to further education and lifelong learning.

He said: "There are now around 90,000 fewer adults in part-time learning than there were ten years ago in Wales' colleges, with the number set to decrease further following dramatic cuts in funding.

"Adults over the age of 25, and women in particular, have suffered the biggest impacts of the ongoing funding constraints.

"In Bridgend College, these cuts are affecting part-time courses such as adult returners looking to upskill, as well as young people trying to better themselves by studying a part-time course while holding down a job."

The Conservative candidate, who speaks English, French and Arabic, is currently taking classes at Bridgend College to learn Welsh. He also participated in a protest at Bridgend College against policies of the Labour-led Welsh Government.

Stay-awake-athon in aid of Pudsey

PUPILS at Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen were among those raising pounds for Pudsey – thanks to a week-long programme of Children in Need fundraising which culminated with an overnight Stay-awake-athon!

Two hundred students and 20 staff fought off their tiredness to stay awake through the night from 7pm on Friday to 7am on Saturday. A range of activities were organised to help them stay alert, such as an eight-hour disco, blindfolded cake decorating, a non-pub quiz, dodgeball, board games and a conga around the school!

Earlier in the week, other fundraisers included some teachers being given a soaking when pupils lined up to donate money to throw wet sponges at them, while other teachers sat in a tub and had a variety of food products poured over their heads and interim headteacher Nick Brain was another good sport, answering a selection of questions to avoid a 'gunging'.

The school also held quizzes, dodgeball tournaments, cake sales, music performances, and a non-uniform day.

A spokesperson for the school council, which is made up of 14 pupils, said: "We set ourselves an ambitious target of raising over £4,000 and so far we have £5,700 and are still collecting. We are an all-inclusive school where we care about our pupils, we care about our community, and we care about helping Children in Need. Our pupils and staff put a lot of hard work into arranging these fundraising events to change the lives of those less fortunate and in need, and we are delighted with the total we have raised."

The Town Council shows its support for traders' petition

RIGHT: Suzy Davies AM with the Bridgend town clerk, Nigel Kinsey and deputy town clerk, Leanne Edwards.

THE decision of Bridgend Town Council to support the petition a call for parts of Bridgend town centre to be opened up to traffic and parking has been welcomed by a regional AM.

The council had considered options for de-pedestrianising Queen Street, Dunraven Place and Market Street, which would enable traffic to enter the town over the Rhiw bridge and then exit onto Derwen Road.

Hundreds of shoppers have signed a petition supporting the traders' call for traffic to be permitted in that part of town – in a bid to boost trade.

Welsh Conservative AM Suzy Davies said: "I organised the petition after talking to traders who are seeing their livelihoods dwindle because of decreasing footfall in the town.

"Further regeneration work now under way at the Rhiw will create more disruption and traders have already endured years of regeneration work which has seen streets closed to traffic.

"However, the work to Nolton Street has proved that allowing traffic to park can boost business. The installation of parking bays in this street has helped the shops located there, which is why we are calling on BCBC to think again and reverse some of the pedestrianisation it has introduced.

"The most successful shopping centre in the UK is London where there is no pedestrianisation at all. Shoppers and traffic safely co-exist and this could happen again in Bridgend. Obviously, it must be done safely but we cannot allow risk averse officers at the council to strangle the town centre."

The petition is also being backed by George Jabour, Bridgend Conservative candidate at next year's Assembly elections.

WOODLAND PLAN WINS SUPPORT

PLANS to create a new woodland in Maesteg on former colliery land are being being backed by Suzy Davies, Welsh Conservative AM.

She said that the scheme to plant 60,000 trees over ten years on the old Coegnant Coliery site, stretching down the flanks of Pwll yr Iwrch to the washery site, would hep transform the valley's appearance and improve the environment for residents.

She said: "As the trees mature, I hope it will encourage more people to walk in the countryside that's on our own doorstep. Unfortunately, people from outside Wales still have a very dated and stereotyped view of the south Wales valleys.

"While the slag heaps and pits have long gone, we do need to offer attractive areas to visitors, as well as residents, and I understand that this development will see the creation of a woodland, complete with nature trails and habitat for wildlife.

"This is a good use of the funding on offer from the Welsh Government's Nature Fund. Having all these additional broad-leaved trees will certainly make the valley green again – even if that is a bit of a cliché!"

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Bridgend Young Farmers take stock of their successful year

Bridgend YFC successfully competed in a recent stockjudging competition.

Bridgend YFC recently competed in the annual stockjudging competition, which this year was hosted by Llantristant YFC on three farms – judging beef, pigs, lambs, and dairy.

With the quality of stock very high, it was a difficult competition this year for our members.

Bridgend YFC had a very successful year with several placings in the different categories. Alice Tudor received best junior stockman of the year and Bethan Rees received best senior stockman.

The branch gained first place overall – a tremendous achievement! Well done to all who competed and a big thank you to everyone who helped to organise the day, including all stewards and judges.

We would also like to thank our stockjudging trainers and host farms for all their help and support.

Bridgend YFC were also successful in this year's Glamorgan eisteddfod, where they gained first place. Lots of our members competed in both the homework and the on stage competitions.

Who wants to build what and where?

*BCBC Regeneration Team – **Kenfig National Nature Reserve, Heol Las Mawdlam, Ton Kenfig** – Interpretation board and artwork on building and orientation map adjacent to footpath.*

*BDW South Wales – **Ysgol Bryn Castell site, Cefn Glas Road, Bridgend** – Various works to a number of trees ((1954) Glam CC No 3).*

*Three Elms Investments Ltd – **Waterton Service Station, A48 bypass road, Bridgend** – Single storey extension to the rear/left side of foreourt, relocate car wash and site refurbishment.*

*Mr P Colston – **Land east of 7 Garnwen Road, Maesteg** – Demolish existing garage and construct new garage and new retaining wall to provide space for cour parking spaces.*

*Mr N Thomas – **1 and 2 Shepherds Yard off Australian Terrace, Bridgend** – Change of use from light industrial unit to mattress recycling centre.*

*Mrs D Walters – **30 Maesglas, Bettws** – Single storey extension to provide a bedroom.*

*Mr Viv Hughes – **Abergarw Farm, New Road, Brynmenyn** – Discharge of conditions 1-10, 12-17 of P/14/742/OUT.*

*Phil Morgan – **24 The Whimbrels, Porthcawl** – Discharge of condition 3 of P/15/390/FUL.*

*Mr Anthony Roberts – **18 Woodland Avenue, Porthcawl** – Single storey extension to rear, detached double garage to rear garden and internal alterations.*

*RG and SA Williams and Son – **Gadlys Farm, Dimbath Lane, Glynogwr, Bridgend** – New steel portal framed building to house sheep.*

*Banana Moon Day Nursery – **Unit rear of Canolfa/The Triangle, Brackla** – Change of use from Class A1 retail to use as a children's day nursery.*

*Mr Philip Tovey – **First and second floors, 96 Nolton Street, Bridgend** – Change floors one and two from offices into residential use.*

*Tondu IV Ltd – **Land south west of Maesteg Road, Tondu** – Vary conditions 8 and 9 of consent P/15/322/FUL relating to air conditioning units and odour mitigation scheme.*

*Arqiva Ltdf – **Arqiva site off Maesteg Road, Cwmfelin** – Remove existing 16m high mast and install 17.5m high mast with antennas, fencing and retaining wall.*

*Mrs T M J Davies – **29 Coronation Road, Llangynwyd** – Installation of an external lift and associated works.*

Porthcawl Museum and History Society – The Old Police Station, John Street, Porthcawl – Remove wall between cell corridor and kitchen; new door to store; information planel to front and remove asbestos on ground floor.

*Royal Bank of Scotlad Plc – **NatWest, 26 Adare street, Bridgend** – Internal works only including removal of stud walls, replace ornate features, new partitions, etc.*

*Celtic Energy Limited – **Margam opencast site, Bridgend** – Screening and scoping opinion for site restoration plan.*

*Canadian Solar – **Sea View Farm, Pyle Road, Porthcawl** – Approval of detail for condition 3 (landscaping) of P/14/148/FUL.*

*Mr R B Sage – **8 Hubert Drive, Litchard** – Extend width of rear dormer.*

*Mr D Cornelius – **9 Adrian Close, Porthcawl** – Replace conservatory with a larger single storey extension and extend the existing side extension.*

*Calvary Baptist Chapel trustees – **Baptist Chapel, High Street, Ogmore Vale** – New disabled access ramp and steps with widened entrance.*

*Mr Gerald Gore – **14 Springfield Gardens, Bridgend** – Erection of a single storey detached garage to rear garden.*

*Mr A Carter – **Arwenydd, Porthcawl Road, South Cornelly** – Proposed detached residential dwelling (while retaining the existing dwelling).*

*Waterstone Homes and Hafod Housing – **Bayswater Tubes and Sections Co Ltd, Heol-y-Geifr, Pencoed** – Discharge of conditions 2 and 3 of P/15/110/FUL.*

Chris Long accepts the award on behalf of Bridgend College.

Bridgend College receives Sustain Wales award at Cardiff ceremony

CYNNAL Cymru – Sustain Wales' inaugural Sustain Wales awards ceremony was held at the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff last week to an audience of national and international businesses and champions of sustainability in Wales.

The awards highlight the excellent work being done in Wales and the evening included entertainment by actor and host, Rhodri Hugh Thomas.

Chris Long, sustainable development manager at Bridgend College, collected the sustainable school/college of the year award presented by Eleri Chicott from the Open University Cymru.

Bridgend College was the first college in Wales to sign the sustainable development charter and the only further education college to have signed the Rio Declaration.

The college has introduced a large number of sustainability initiatives, such as a decision-making framework for sustainability, Colegau Cymru (FE) health, safety and sustainability cluster group and a number of biodiversity projects and competitions.

Hallam Amos, Wales and Newport Gwent Dragons star, opened the awards and outlined his strong interest in sustainability and the benefits that sport can bring to society. Amos believes that culture is an important part of sustainability and in Wales sport plays a huge part in our culture – rugby in particular.

Welsh Water – Dwr Cymru, as the main sponsor, was joined by a host of category and ceremony sponsors, including; Melin Homes, Open University, Pick Everard, Interserve, LivEco, IntroBiz, the Welsh Rugby Union/Wales Millennium Stadium, the University of Wales Trinity St David, the Wales Millennium Centre, and Yoke Creative.

Peter Davies, Commissioner for Sustainable Futures, was presented with the special award of Sustainability Champion by Jane Davidson, on behalf of the University of Wales Trinity St David.

Winners in the eight categories were:

Sustainable Project of the Year – Safer Swansea Partnership, 'Purple Flag';

Sustainable Business of the Year – Melin Homes.

Community Group of the Year – Swiss Valley CP School/Groundforce Swiss Valley;

Public Sector Award – City and County of Swansea;

Sustainable School/College of the Year – Bridgend College;

Social Enterprise of the year – Antur Waunfawr;

Sustainable Venue of the Year – Wales Millennium Centre;

Young Sustainability Champion – Mousa Dahbreh, Swansea University.

Final Award for Sustainability Champion was a closed category awarded by the judges to Peter Davies, Commissioner for Sustainable Futures.

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The Savoyard sorcerer casts a spell!

THE Mid Glamorgan Savoyards enchanted the audience with its recent production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Sorcerer* at The Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl.

It was the 21st charity production from what is now a well oiled machine, under the enthusiastic direction of Roger Hudd, musical director, and Andrew Griffiths, stage director. Orchestra, chorus and soloists combined to delight us with a simple comedy of love potions and mismatched lovers.

Alexis, who sets the plot in motion, has a noble plan; he wants to create in the village 'a lucid lake of liquid love'. The main characters combined exactly the right amount of comic acting with beautiful singing and some tender moments.

The Sorcerer himself, Rob Reynolds, was an excellent villain. Plenty of witty lines; 'beauty may perish but cleanliness is everything', added to the entertainment.

The evening raised approximately £2,000, divided this year between The Save The Children Fund, Macmillan Cancer Support, and Prostate Cymru. If you missed this year's production, then make a note to come along next year; it's always a great evening out, with familiar faces from the local community adding to the enjoyment!

DOMINIQUE SPEAREY

Lodge 'cheque' Porthcawl lifeboats!

Lodge members pictures wiht members of the Porthcawl RNLI.

THIS year several organisations in Porthcawl have celebrated key anniversaries and one of these was the Porthcawl Masonic Lodge of Sker – which marked its 50th anniversary at the Masonic Hall, New Road, Porthcawl, with a celebration meal.

This milestone also coincided with Porthcawl RNLI celebrating its 50th anniversary earlier this year.

During the course of the evening, a charity raffle was held, realising the sum of £200. Lodge secretary Henry Harris said:

"As Porthcawl is a seaside town reliant on the lifeboats to ensure the safety of all sea users along its shores, it was decided that the raffle money should be donated to the RNLI Lifeboat Station, to show our support for the work they do."

Leading members of the Lodge visited the lifeboat station during a crew training session where Stephen Rudd, the Master of the Lodge, presented the cheque to the Porthcawl lifeboat operations manager, Mr Philip Missen MBE.

The presentation was supported by the Town Mayor, Coun David Newton-Williams, and his consort, Mrs Gaynor Newton-Williams.

Philip Missen said: "We are delighted to receive this donation and pleased that the brethren of the Lodge of Sker recognised and considered the work that our volunteers do.

"They have witnessed at first hand the dedication of our crew during our normal Wednesday evening training. The Masonic fraternity have a long history of supporting the RNLI on a national level and it is good to have this local link also."

A suspended sentence for charity worker who dealt drugs

COURT REPORT
by **AJ SICLUNA**

A CHARITY worker who dealt in drugs has been jailed for eight months, the sentence suspended for two years, at Cardiff Crown Court and ordered to carry out 200 hours unpaid work.

Liam Skyrme, 19, of The Green, Sarn, said to be a valuable member of a charity team, admitted possessing class B drugs with intent to supply.

Judge Michael Fitton told him: "It is clear you were involved in dealing."

He said Skyrme was an intelligent young man, but in the past he had made some "bad decisions". But, added the Judge, he had turned his life around.

"There is no quick fix, you know that."

The Judge also said: "It's in your own hands to sort yourself out."

Prosecutor John Warren said that on April 26, police stopped a Vauxhall car in Market Street, Bridgend, and recovered a quantity of mephadrone.

Skyrme told officers: "I don't know what it is, it's not mine."

On his mobile phone, were text messages relating to drugs. Skyrme told the police that he was not a dealer, and the drugs had belonged to a passenger in the vehicle.

He then said he used mephadrone on weekends, and when he sold some of it, he would make £150 per ounce.

He was said to have a previous conviction for theft, for which he received a community order.

His solicitor, Robert Chudleigh, said: "He has been realistic, and from the start, pleaded guilty."

He said that what had happened was that Skyrme became involved with the wrong people.

"He is wholly remorseful and now lives a settled existence. He is a valuable member of a charity team.

"He is very concerned about the situation in which he found himself and it is conceded the case passes the custody threshhold," said Mr Chudleigh.

Skyrme was ordered to pay a victim surcharge and a criminal court charge totalling £280.

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BLUE BADGES: Regional AM queries cost to the council

REGIONAL AM Suzy Davies has submitted a freedom of information request to Bridgend County Borough Council about the cost of introducing parking charges for disabled drivers at its car parks.

Welsh Conservative AM Suzy Davies said: "I have asked for information on how much it is going to cost to replace every ticket machine in every car park in Bridgend and Porthcawl so that people in wheelchairs can use them.

"If they bring in charges for drivers with blue badges, there will be huge cost implications for the council in terms of changing these machines.

"We need to know how much money is being talked about and what estimates the council has of increased income from charging disabled drivers. It will be interesting to see how long it takes the council to recoup the capital outlay involved and if, on balance, it is worth doing.

"I also have concerns about the impact on trade in the town centre. Footfall is already down and if the many loyal disabled shoppers who support local businesses especially in the market, are deterred because they have to pay to park, it could be another nail in the coffin of Bridgend town centre.

"Blue badges are a recognition that some people with disabilities need their cars more than people who don't – it's not a choice so why charge them as if it is?

"On top of that, blue badge holders can park for free at supermarket car parks – like every other driver – so they may ask themselves why they should pay just to come into Bridgend. If they do stay away, the council's projected extra income from parking charges would be totally derailed."

Traders in Bridgend have opposed the move and they have been backed by Bridgend Town Council. BCBC has launched a consultation on this proposal which closes on December 7.

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Residents are praised for their recycling

GREEN-fingered residents who supported a garden waste recycling scheme this year have been praised by BCBC.

Nearly 2,400 households signed up for the scheme, which enabled gardeners to use a fortnightly service between April and October to recycle green waste including grass cuttings, leaves, plants, flowers, weeds and hedge clippings.

Residents pruned, mowed and raked up a total of 465.26 tonnes of waste, which was collected and taken to local firm Cowbridge Compost to be turned into a compost fertilizer.

Coun Hywel Williams, cabinet member for communities, said: "By taking part in the garden waste scheme, local residents have played their part in helping us to cut down on the amount of waste being sent to landfill.

"Twenty per cent more homes took part in the scheme this year than in 2014, and the total waste collected increased by around a third. And when you compare the figures to 2013, when we first started offering a paid garden waste collection scheme, the amount collected has more than doubled since then.

"The green waste collections have now finished for the year, to coincide with the end of the growing season, and on behalf of the council I would like to thank everyone who supported the scheme."

Residents who opted for the garden waste collections were charged a fee of £27 per month, or £23 for pensioners.

Students stay awake to help Pudsey!

PUPILS at Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen were among those raising pounds for Pudsey – thanks to a week-long programme of Children in Need fundraising which culminated with an overnight Stay-awake-athon!

Two hundred students and 20 staff fought off their tiredness to stay awake through the night from 7pm on Friday to 7am on Saturday. A range of activities were organised to help them stay alert, such as an eight-hour disco, blindfolded cake decorating, a non-pub quiz, dodgeball, board games and a conga around the school!

Earlier in the week, other fundraisers included some teachers being given a soaking when pupils lined up to donate money to throw wet sponges at them, while other teachers sat in a tub and had a variety of food products poured over their heads and interim headteacher Nick Brain was another good sport, answering a selection of questions to avoid a 'gunging'.

The school also held quizzes, dodgeball tournaments, cake sales, music performances, and a non-uniform day.

A spokesperson for the school council, which is made up of 14 pupils, said: "We set ourselves an ambitious target of raising over £4,000 and so far we have £5,700 and are still collecting. We are an all-inclusive school where we care about our pupils, we care about our community, and we care about helping Children in Need. Our pupils and staff put a lot of hard work into arranging these fundraising events to change the lives of those less fortunate and in need, and we are delighted with the total we have raised."

BAVO pick up an award for taking care of their staff

THE Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) is celebrating their gold small workplace health award to recognise their best practice in supporting health and wellbeing for their staff.

Healthy Working Wales is a Welsh Government scheme run by Public Health Wales which offers free help and support to any business with a base in Wales. The Healthy Working Wales awards programme recognises businesses that look after the health and wellbeing of their employees.

Rhian Parry of Healthy Working Wales said: "I supported BAVO through the silver and gold levels of the small workplace health award. It has been a privilege to work with BAVO and I look forward to sharing their good practices and initiatives with other organisations. BAVO should be very proud of their achievement!"

Since 2010, BAVO has worked towards silver and gold levels of the award by taking part in an environmental project in Bryngarw Country Park where they built a 'living hedge', underwent health checks and advice from a nurse and had fun taking part in team challenges about healthy eating and physical activity.

Award assessors noted: "This was a high quality assessment and BAVO is clearly an organisation where health and wellbeing has become embedded and integrated into the organisation's culture. Well done to all!"

Coffee with music and cakes boosts charities

JANICE GREGORY, AM for Ogmore, opened a wonderful coffee morning at the Heronston Hotel for the Bridgend County Civic Charity on November 20.

Past and present nominated charities held stalls to sell and promote their own charity, including BAVO, who give advice and guidance and encourage volunteers to support all the different charities. There was plenty of coffee, tea and biscuits for everyone, with tasty cakes, pastries, sausage rolls and other tempting edibles prepared and cooked by the students from Heronsbridge School and Ysgol Bryn Castell, to purchase.

To top the morning, Llangewydd Junior School choir arrived (sponsored by Gwyn Jones Coaches, Bryncethin) and they were the pinnacle of the event and entertained to a very high standard all present, including parents and grandparents who love to see and hear these pupils perform and support the choir and the school.

Musical director Ms Bethan Hatch and headteacher Mrs Sue Davies, encourage the choir and fully support many of the Bridgend County Civic charity events.

Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council, Coun Mel Nott acknowledged that this was the start of the Christmas festivities and the Mayor, Coun Richard Young, thanked everyone for supporting the event and getting to know the local charities.

The next event is the 'Nearly Christmas Dinner' and 'Presentation Evening' at the Heronston Hotel on Saturday, December 12 at 7.30pm with tickets available at £21 per person.

The following event will be a Civic Charity community carol service at St Mary's Church, Nolton, Bridgend on December 16 at 7pm, with a collection taken during the service for the charities.

Further information is available from Mrs M Major (01656 664105) or Coun Marlene Thomas (01656 871439). Everyone is welcome.

MM

SILVER BAND CONCERTS

PENCOED Silver Band are pleased to announce they are joining with the Tenovus Choir at the Two Brewers Pub on the November 28 to provide an early start to the Christmas festivities from 2pm-3.30pm.

On November 29, the band will be performing Christmas carols at Seasons Christmas Outlet, Brynmeren. All proceeds will be donated to Tenovus Cancer Care.

Pencoed Welfare Hall Christmas concert, to accompany the visit of Santa Claus, takes place on on December 3 at 6pm.

The band are excited to perform at the Christmas Tree Festival at the Nolton Church, Bridgend from 7pm-9pm.

For further information, call 07973 767197.

BARNARDO'S HELPERS TELL OF THEIR VITAL WORK IN WALES

TWENTY-SIX ladies (and two gentlemen!) gathered in Porthcawl recently to learn more about the work of Barnardo's in south Wales to support the most vulnerable children in society.

Jenna Dowell, volunteer co-ordinator for Barnardo's in Bridgend, spoke about her efforts to recruit volunteers for the charity.

Simon Powell, a one time service user whose son was a young carer when he became disabled, was supported by Barnardo's and became a fundraiser himself in Newport.

People attended from fundraising groups in Neath, Narberth, Bridgend, Porthcawl, Barry and Cowbridge. They left knowing that the funds they raise are used wisely to give hope to children and young adults and their families.

The event was organised by Iris Williams, the county chair, and was attended by Liz Singer, national chair of the AAB which acts as a support to the fundraising groups throughout the British Isles. Also attending were Sue Westbury, head of regional fundraising (south), and Alison Knott, regional fundraising manager for Wales.

*During the day, David Hughes handed over a cheque representing the sum raised by the Magical Music concert organised in September. He is pictured (**above**) with the cheque for £7,500 which Sue Westbury and Alison Knott received on behalf of Barnardo's Cymru. Others featured include the organising committee.*

Next year, Barnardo's will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of the commencement of the work carried out by Thomas Barnardo among children of the east end of London, when no child would be turned away.

Public admire young artists' work in school

Louise Williams, Carla Prinsloo and Laura Evans with Carla's dress.

Josh Williams with proud parents who featured in his work.

THE St Clare's School, Porthcawl opened its doors to the public for two evenings last week for the senior school's annual art exhibition.

Despite the storm warnings, staff, parents and family members of pupils past and present gathered to admire the large collection of work.

A stunning mix of self-portraits, abstract art, 3D design pieces, prom dresses and even a completely refurbished armchair filled the school hall and were admired by the large crowd of guests who had gathered to celebrate last year's results.

The art and design department at St Clare's boasts excellent examination results every summer. GCSE students had 100 per cent A* to A grades, and A-Level students 100 per cent A*-B.

Students have gone on to study at top universities for art: Jessica Lawrence gained three As at A-Level (fine art, textiles and graphics) and has gone to University of Southampton, Winchester School of Art to study textile design; and Josh Edwards, who won the Master of the Arts award at the recent prize day at Porthcawl Pavilion has gone to Bath Spa to study fine art.

Special congratulations to Carla Prinsloo who got full marks in both her GCSE art portfolio and her exam. That's extremely rare! Well done, Carla! Her exam unit has been selected to go around the country with the Welsh examining board, WJEC as 'outstanding' work.

St Clare's offer textiles, graphic design and fine art at A-Level. In each subject, pupils are given a lot of flexibility and are able to choose their own theme which they wish to develop. Pupils then create design briefs and extensive portfolios of work before completing their final pieces and sitting their practical exams.

Teachers, Mrs Williams and Miss Evans said: "We're extremely proud of all our students and thank parents, pupils and others for attending the art show.

Headmaster, Simon Antwis, was delighted to see such a great turnout at the art exhibition, despite the gales: "Once again, it was a pleasure to marvel at the talent and sheer imagination of our A-Level and GCSE art and textile students. Congratulations to all our students for their fantastic results. Well done and thank you to their two inspirational teachers who continue to ignite in young people a passion for art at St Clare's School."

Caroline 'thrilled' with her new wheelchair prize

ABOVE: Winner Caroline Lewis with her new wheelchair. (PHOTOGRAPH by RANDELL JOHN).

INVACARE LTD, a leading mobility equipment manufacturer based in Pencoed, donated a brand new wheelchair as a prize in its competition; 'Champion for a Champion,' in which entrants had to write who they think is the champion in their lives and why.

The winner was Caroline Lewis from Newport, who was presented with a Küschall Ultra Light wheelchair.

She wrote that her husband is her champion, for his constant and unwavering support during their lives together.

Born with Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita, a condition that affects the joints and muscles from birth, Caroline's mobility is limited and living in constant pain makes moving around difficult – and with the added risk of falling and serious injury.

A delighted Caroline commented: "I am beyond thrilled with my new chair. Not only does it give me the freedom to be able to keep working full time, it is very comfortable and so easy to use.

"For the first time in my life, I feel agile, the chair responds to the lightest touch and it is very fast! This is going to make life so much easier for me. Being disabled does not stop me from living a full life and my Küschall chair means I can do that in comfort and style! Thank you Invacare, from the bottom of my heart."

In addition, Caroline an employee relations advisor for Arriva Trains Wales, has just been nominated Disability Champion and the new chair will be help support her role as a point of contact to improve accessibility.

Mum Sian Howell gives Rhydian a hand to post his letter to Santa Claus.

Museum can send children's letters straight to Santa!

PORTHCAWL Museum has stepped in to offer a special Christmas service this year – a chance for young ones to post a letter to Santa.

Each child who posts a letter in the museum in John Street will receive a reply stamped from Lapland via Porthcawl. The cost is £1.50.

One young boy who posted a letter was Rhydian Howell, who came along with his mum Sian, who said: "Rhydian is very pleased his letter is on its way. It's a lovely idea and I hope it is successful for future years!! Thank you for your kindness today."

'Keep warm' advice for elderly in the county borough

"KEEP warm, keep safe and keep well during the cold weather" – older people in Bridgend county borough were warned this week.

The charity Age Cymru and the Welsh Government Warm Homes Nest scheme have teamed up to publish 'Winter wrapped up: a guide to keeping warm, safe and well this winter' – a free guide available from Age Cymru offices and shops.

Pick up your copy from Age Cymru, 37 John Street, Porthcawl, CF36 3AP; Age Cymru's telephone advice line is 08000 223 444.

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.bridgend-today.co.uk
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Youth enterprise seen at its best!

ON a visit to the Test Town Bridgend's youth enterprise market, Bridgend AM Carwyn Jones said: "It was great to visit the youth enterprise market last week.

"There were some great products on sale and I enjoyed chatting to the many young entrepreneurs who were selling their products and showcasing their services. They were very enthusiastic.

"I wish these budding entrepreneurs every success with their future endeavours."

Volunteers, family, and friends tread the catwalk for the Sandville centre!

THE Sandville Self Help Centre's annual fashion show was held at the Hi-Tide Inn, Porthcawl, on November 19, organised by Gwyneth Howells and Gwyneth Poacher.

Models were a mixture of volunteers at the centre and family and friends. Funds were raised through the sale of tickets and at the end all clothes modelled were offered for sale.

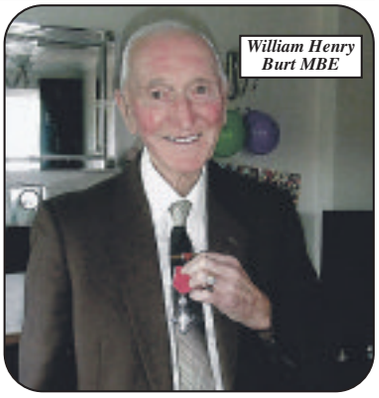
The evening was hosted by Dout Williams, who also performed during the interval. The money raised is going to fund the work done by everyone at The Sandville.

All of the photos from the evening can be viewed at www.amorphotographicwales.co.uk.

Pictures by Louise Owens-Redwood at Amor Photographic

'Pillar of the community'

FORMER MAYOR OF OGWR BOROUGH WILLIAM 'BILL' BURT DIES AGED 94



William Henry Burt MBE

OBITUARY

WILLIAM HENRY BURT MBE, a pillar of the Ynysawdre community, died suddenly, but peacefully, at Bryn Y Cae Residential Home on November 17, at the age of 94.

Until six months ago, Bill resided at Haulfryn, Tondu, where he was active in politics until the age of 87.

Bill devoted his life to caring for others. He loved his family and was devoted to his wife Mavis, who passed away two-and-a-half years ago. He is survived by his daughter Angela, son Adrian and grandchildren Alistair, Andrew, Nicola and Nigel, as well as six great grandchildren. He also loved his community and his house was always open to those requiring his assistance.

During his early years, he was a keen sportsman and was offered a trial with Cardiff City, but preferred the security of the railways. He supported Tondu Cricket and Rugby clubs, as well as Bridgend RFC and Wales.

He entered politics as a councillor for Ynysawdre in 1963, finally retiring 45 years later aged 87. This included a period as chairman for five consecutive terms of office. He was instrumental in acquiring Ynysawdre Community Hall for his constituency – a place widely used today for many activities. Bill was very proud of the hall and along with a small team of helpers, would prepare it for functions and then clean up afterwards.

In 1973, he was voted onto the old Ogwr Borough Council. He served for 26 years, including the transition to the current BCBC before retiring at the age of 79. During that period, he served on six committees and was chairman of education and leisure for 11 of those years.

In 1986, he was elected Mayor of the Borough of Ogwr. He raised £49,000 (£96,000 in 2015 money) for his charity presenting the Princess of Wales Hospital with a new mammography machine.

He was very proud and appreciative of the support he was given during his year in office and travelled over 18,000 miles and visited over 500 functions during that year.

He was lucky to be present in an official capacity when Princess Diana officially opened the Princess of Wales Hospital. He also met other royalty, including the Queen at a garden party in Buckingham Palace, Princess Anne and Prince Edward on two occasions.

He officially opened Bryngarw Park and the new civic offices in Bridgend.

During his year as Mayor he also met Nelson Mandela and sat next to Desmond Tutu at a function, as well as meeting many stars from the world of show business at events in the Grand Pavilion.

He left school at 14 and did various jobs before following his father to work on the railways. He worked there for 46 years, eventually driving engines.

His care for his fellow workers saw him voted as a local ASLEF representative. He rose through the ranks to branch secretary and then on the sectional council, attending monthly meetings in London.

Although his education was mainly what he learned in life, he was very keen that others in his community did not miss out. He was co-opted onto the board of governors of Brynmenyn Primary School, Archbishop McGrath and Ynysawdre comprehensive schools.

He served for 36 years, 26 as chairman at Ynysawdre from 1972 until he retired aged 87 in 2008.

Following his retirement, the school nominated Bill to the Queen's Honours list for services to Education and the Community. In 2010, he was awarded the MBE.

In June of this year, Bill entered Bryn Y Cae Residential Care Home. Having given care for most of his life, Bill was very appreciative of the care he was to receive himself.

He praised everything and everybody at the care home – even battling back from a broken femur to walk again within the home.

He will be greatly missed by his family and the community he served so unselfishly.

The funeral and celebration of his life takes place at 2.15pm on Monday, November 30, at Coychurch Crematorium, followed by light refreshments at the Masons Arms, Bryncethin.

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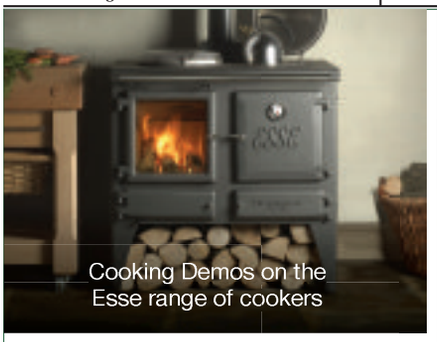

Your chance to share the community news

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM: If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

CLIVE MITCHELL

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
Tel: 01656 725399 • E-Mail: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk

Ladies at the 'Crafternoon' making Remembrance Day poppies.

Crafternoon at church

IN the Wesley centre attached to the Tondu Methodist Church, the 'Crafternoon' group meets every Wednesday from 2pm – 4pm.

For Remembrance Sunday, the group created impressive displays, with poppies of various sizes which were handmade, including the centres moulded of clay and then painted.

'Crafternoon' is an opportunity to relax, have fun and be creative, or just chat and have a cuppa. Members of the group have learnt new craft skills and made new friends.

The photographs show members of the group and the Remembrance Day displays.

The members of the church will be holding a Christmas bazaar and tree festival on Saturday, December 5 from 10am to 3pm. Everyone is welcome.

Singer of the Year

ORGANISED by the Maesteg Gleemen male choir and sponsored by Dunraven Windows Ltd, Welsh Young Singer of the Year competition is open to singers between the ages of 11 – 30 years at September 1, 2015, studying classical singing on a full/part time basis who meet certain criteria.

There are two categories in the junior section: 11 to 15 years and 16 to 18 years old. The winner of each junior category will receive £500 and a personal trophy. The winner of the 19 – 30 category will receive a prize of £2,500 and a personal trophy.

All other finalists will receive a personal trophy and a runner-up prize of £100 each for the junior sections, and £500 each for the 19 – 30 category. All entries must be sent before the closing date of Saturday, November 28 2015.

It is expected that the competition will attract singers from all parts of the UK. Successful applicants will be invited to attend a live, closed audition on Saturday, January 23 at Maesteg Town Hall. The final will be held at Maesteg Town Hall on Saturday, April 2.

The choir rehearses at the Royal British Legion Club, Commercial Street on Monday and Thursday evenings from 7pm to 8.30pm, and welcomes visitors and new members.

Bullies out!

KERRY Jones, headteacher of Tynyrheol primary school, Llangeinor thanks everyone for their efforts in the school's anti-bullying week.

It raised £97 for new resources in the school's playground. The school council will be meeting this week to discuss how best to spend the money, and also devise a policy for the school.

Parents are advised that if they want their child to attend the school's breakfast club, they need to complete the correct forms, available from the school secretary.

The education welfare officer has noted that several pupils are persistently late. Please make every effort to be in school before 9am, as attendance is monitored, the head urges.

The PTFA are holding the Christmas fayre in the Richard Price Centre 3pm – 5pm on Friday, November 27. They would be grateful for any raffle prizes. All proceeds from the Christmas fayre go to the school to help support your child through the buying of resources, funding trips and activities.

Choir recruits

IN 1974, men in the Maesteg area produced a leaflet which resulted in the formation of Côr Meibion Maesteg a'r Cylch (Maesteg and District male choir).

It then had over 100 choristers – today there are now 48 members and they are proud to carry on the male voice tradition.

The choir is now asking the men of Maesteg and surrounding districts to help it to keep up the musical tradition of Wales.

The choir travels to events all over the UK, singing for charitable causes, which is the main purpose; it does not sing in competitions. Choristers don't need a voice like Russell Watson, or have to read music. All they need to do is turn up on a Thursday at 7pm for two hours and every other Tuesday for two hours, at the Maesteg Celtic sports and social club.

Tree Festival

NOW in its ninth year, the Christmas tree festival at Nolton Church in Bridgend looks set to top even last year's record-breaking number of exhibitors.

Anticipating more than 50 highly imaginative interpretations of decorated trees, Rector of the church Canon Michael Komor, says: "Every year, we are staggered by the display of creativity from a wide range of local charities, businesses, schools and church groups. Many of these exhibitors have been with us from the beginning, but no display ever seems to be repeated – they are always new."

Each year, all proceeds from the festival go to a nominated charity which this year is the Motor Neurone Disease Association, one that is close to the heart of guest judge at the festival, MP Madeleine Moon.

Canon Komor said: "We very much hope the community will continue to support this event in the way that it has in previous years. It's a great way to bring different aspects of the locality together, it's great fun, and it's been very successful in raising vital funds for good causes."

The festival opens on Tuesday, December 1 and the church is open every day for the rest of the week 11am – 6pm. Admission for adults is £2, primary school-aged children and younger are admitted free.

The festival culminates in a day of live music on December 5, with a visit from Santa and a puppet show. Messy Church will also be running in the church hall during the afternoon.

The festival concert on Saturday evening features the Pencoed Silver Band and other local artists, and begins at 7pm. Tickets will be available on the door, £7/£5 concessions.

More information from rector@cnb-parish.org.uk <mailto:rector@cnb-parish.org.uk>.

Ukelele band

PENCOED Ukulele Band is hosting a coffee and homemade cakes morning in support of Macmillan Nurses cancer charity at St David's Church Hall, Wimborne Road, Pencoed on December 5 from 10:30am to 12:30pm. Everyone is welcome, and the band hopes to raise a record sum for this worthwhile charity.

Parking complaints

MRS Susan Pilcher is asking Tondu primary school parents who bring and collect their children from school by car, to show courtesy to the residents who live around the school.

The school has received complaints about the way parents have been parking in Dunraven Street.

Susan is asking parents to "please be considerate to the school's neighbours" in Meadow Street, West Street and Dunraven Street.

These residents have requested that parents not block their driveways or park on bends!

Susan would like to invite carers of children in Mrs Russell's and Mrs Evans' class, Taf, to share in its class assembly tomorrow (Friday, November 27) at 10.20am.

Mr Brain, acting executive headteacher of Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen (Ynysawdre Comprehensive School) and Mr Pope, assistant director of the local education authority, will be available to meet year-6 parents at Tondu Primary on December 3 at 3pm.

She thanks all who attended the recent PTFA Christmas fair. It was very well supported, the choir sang beautifully and was a credit to Miss Davies and Mrs Lewis.

The school is very grateful to the wonderful Father Christmas who met all the children.

The fantastic sum of £600 was raised to buy resources for the children in the school.

Ladies' choir

CÔR Merched Cwm Llynfi (Llynfi Valley ladies choir) will be appearing in a concert with the Garw Valley male choir and soloist Aled Williams at Blaengarw Working Men's Club on Friday, December 4.

It is being held to raise funds for the charity 'Children of Chernobyl Lifeline'; tickets £5, available on 07989 506154, or at the door.

The choir welcomes new members and rehearses on Wednesday evenings at the Catholic church Our Lady and St Patrick, Monica Street, Maesteg at 7pm.

Festive fair

CEFN Cribwr Community Association is holding a Christmas fair at Cefn Cribwr Community Centre (the green hall) next Saturday, November 28 from 10.45am to 1pm.

There will be lots of goodies for sale, ideal for presents for Christmas, and (of course) Santa is in attendance.

Everyone welcome; all proceeds for both events are for the community association to help maintain the hall and put on various social events for the community.

Family panto

AT Cefn Cribwr Bethlehem Life Centre on Monday, November 30, there will be 100 minutes of festive family fun provided by the Hawthorn touring pantomime company.

It has a brand new show for 2015 with up-to-date chart songs and amazing costumes.

Aladdin and the Lamp of Dreams starts at 6pm and tickets are £3.50. For more information, telephone 01656 662835.

Gardening Club

MEMBERS of Laleston Gardening club meet at Cliff Cottage, High Street, adjacent to the parish church.

The club has a series of monthly meetings throughout the autumn and winter months, and on Tuesday, December 1 it will Mr Trotter's Barber Street Singers at 7.30pm.

The club also has a thriving ladies' section, which meets on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm.

On December 15, it will hold its Christmas party.

The club welcomes new members.

On a sad note, I have been told that Margaret Aylett, who sends reports on behalf of Laleston WI has been taken ill and is in hospital.

Margaret is a great supporter of the WI, and I am sure that members will join me in hoping that she makes a good

One of the Remembrance Day displays.

Santa will light up community!

OVER the last two years, Pyle Community Council has replaced all of the original lighting features acquired over ten years ago.

The new features are LED based, making them both more energy efficient and also will give them a longer life. This year will also see the illumination of both Heathbridge Miners' Square and Rosemount Garden.

The lights will be switched on at 6pm on Friday, November 27 by Father Christmas at the Cenotaph in Kenfig Hill and afterwards the children can visit him in his grotto at Talbot Community Centre.

Council clerk, Harold J Phillips, said: "The Christmas lights will conclude a year where much has been achieved by the Council including the regeneration of Rosemount Garden, increasing the parking spaces in the carpark behind Heathbridge Surgery, a new bus shelter on the A48 opposite Cwrt Anghorfa, together with ongoing work in the Collwyn and School Road.

"The year also saw phase four of the installation of plaques in Heathbridge Miners' Square to bring the total to over 300. Finally, having taken over the sales of poppies in the area, the council would like to thank all those who helped raise a record amount for the area."

Go to the **Bridgend & Porthcawl GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news

There's lots more online....

www.bridgend-today.co.uk
www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

DISABLED RIDERS SAY 'HATS OFF' TO POSTCODE LOTTERY

RIDERS at Vale of Glamorgan RDA, a local riding centre for disabled children, are benefiting from new safety hats, thanks to the People's Postcode Lottery.

The hats have been provided for Riding for the Disabled for less than half their recommended retail price, as funding from players enabled the charity to bulk buy and obtain a substantially reduced price.

New EU regulations have outlawed the use of certain types of riding hat, and groups like the Vale of Glamorgan RDA were facing a significant bill to replace their existing hats. RDA UK, which supports around 500 groups all over the country, stepped in and allocated funds awarded from players of People's Postcode Lottery.

"Our riders enjoy their sessions and rely on us to be here each week with all the equipment they need. The new hat regulations came as an unexpected and costly outlay for our small group and at first we were really worried about how we could afford to replace the hats.

"But then we heard that funds were available to help us. Thanks to players of People's Postcode Lottery we now have some shiny new hats, which we love!" said RDA volunteer, Lynne Mordecai.

Lynne will be celebrating with local players living in the Vale of Glamorgan as the People's Postcode Lottery Millions has landed in their postcode. Lottery players will find out how much of the £2 million prize fund they will share when they open their golden envelopes at an event at Dyffryn Gardens on Saturday, November 28.

RDA is one of the many charities who benefit from lottery funding and this event is a chance for supported charities to meet players and say thank you.

Festive toys appeal for needy local children

LOCAL Co-op stores have teamed-up with HMP and YOI Parc and Bridge FM to launch their 11th Christmas toy appeal for disadvantaged children in the area.

To ensure that hundreds of needy children receive a present on Christmas Day, the community is urged to drop off a toy at participating Co-op food stores in Cowbridge, Margam, Llantwit Major, Pontycymmer, Pencoed, Porthcawl, Brackla and Pyle (petrol filling station store) by Sunday, December 13.

Last year, more than 1,500 toys and gifts were given to children whose families were struggling or unable to cope during the festive period.

They will be wrapped in the HMP and YOI Parc workshops and distributed with the support of local charities and organisations, including the Salvation Army, Bridgend County Borough Council Family Services, Women's Aid, Young Carers, and the Princess of Wales Hospital Children's Ward.

Craig Thomas at Bridge FM, said: "This appeal never ceases to amaze me, we desperately need the help of the community and the generosity and kindness that is shown is always overwhelming. It is heart-breaking to think that some children will wake up without a gift on Christmas morning and so by donating a toy – no matter how big or small – you really are helping to ensure that children and young people from families in difficulty get to share something that most of us take for granted at Christmas."

A Co-op spokeswoman said: "It is heart-warming that so many people remember to think of others at this time of year. We are delighted to once again team up with Bridge FM so that members of the community can pop into the Co-op and drop off a gift which will make a real difference to a local child's Christmas."

Toys and gifts do not need to be wrapped, but must be new and suitable for children or teenagers.

More information is on the following link: http://bridge.fm/?do=wpage&page=Make_a_Local_Childs_Christmas.

Tories re-selected

ANDREW R T DAVIES AM and David Melding AM have been reselected as number one and two for the Welsh Conservatives in south Wales central, ahead of next May's Welsh Assembly elections.

Mr Davies has represented the region in the Assembly since 2007 and has been Leader of the Welsh Conservatives for four-and-a-half years.

David Melding has served the people of south Wales central since 1999 and is currently the Assembly's Deputy Presiding Officer.

Follow The GEM on Twitter - @gem_news

Vigil to remember Somme

THE Welsh National War Memorial in Cardiff will hold an overnight public vigil on June 30 next year – to mark the centenary of the Battle of the Somme, Culture Secretary John Whittingdale announced last week.

There will also be a national vigil at Westminster Abbey and vigils in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

A commemorative service at Manchester Cathedral on July 1, will be followed by a people's procession through Manchester to Heaton Park, and performances featuring the Hallé Orchestra.

John Whittingdale said: "We must never forget the scale of what happened at the Somme. More died on the first day of battle than any other day of the First World War.

"Almost every family in the country was touched by the devastating losses.

"I hope people of all generations up and down the country will have the chance to attend an event and honour the bravery of those who sacrificed so much."

Communities interested in projects exploring the impact of the Battle of the Somme in the trenches or on the Home Front can apply for grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund's First World War: Then and Now £4 million fund.

They can also apply for funding to conserve and repair war memorials as an act of remembrance.

Rhoose History Society talk

A TALK will be held tomorrow (November 27) at 7.30pm, in the rear hall of Rhoose Community Centre, Stewart Road.

The speaker will be Peter Finch on 'Real Cardiff'; admission adult £1, child 50p (under 16) with buffet afterwards.

Vale AM's surgery

VALE of Glamorgan AM Jane Hutt will be holding a surgery this Saturday, November 28, from 10am – 11am at the Barry Citizens' Advice Bureau, 119 Broad Street, Barry. No appointment is necessary.

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'Terminally-ill deserve high quality care and support'

LEADER of the Welsh Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies AM, has added his voice to a Marie Curie campaign calling for the right of everyone to have palliative care when they need it.

He joined the charity's senior health care assistant, Tracy Tucker, at Ty Hywel in Cardiff Bay to back the campaign supporting people living with terminal illness and their families.

The South Wales Central regional AM, Andrew R T Davies, said: "Having visited and seen first-hand the work Marie Curie nurses carry out to care for and support people living with a terminal illness in the Vale of Glamorgan, I am delighted to support the charity's campaign to ensure that people who need palliative care services don't miss out at the time when they need that care the most.

"This dreadful disease has a huge impact on the patient and their family and we must ensure the necessary support and assistance is available and provided to everyone involved. That is a right that everyone deserves."

The campaign comes as Marie Curie revealed that only half of the people over the age of 50 in Wales – of whom there are 1.2 million – are not confident they will get the care they need towards the end of their life.

Currently, one in four people each year who need palliative care miss out because their needs are not recognised and they are not referred on to the right services. Marie Curie is calling on the Welsh Government to build on the good work already done to improve access to high quality palliative and end-of-life care for everyone with a terminal illness.

Marie Curie will be launching a new integrated hospice-at - home service, in collaboration with Cardiff and the Vale University Health Board, in the New Year. It will transform care for those with a terminal illness by providing flexible, 24-hour care.

The Marie Curie Cardiff & the Vale Hospice at Penarth is a 30-bed unit providing specialist round the clock care.

The hospice has a twice-monthly café for carers to meet.

Simon Jones, head of policy and public affairs for Wales at Marie Curie, said: "We are incredibly grateful to Andrew R T Davies for supporting Marie Curie's campaign. Much has been done in Wales over recent years to improve palliative care services but we must all continue to work to ensure that everyone with a terminal illness, whatever illness that might be or wherever they live, gets the high quality care and support they need and deserve."

If you or someone you're close to has a terminal illness, you can call the Marie Curie Support Line on 0800 090 2309 Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm or visit mariecurie.org.uk/help.

ABOVE: Andrew R T Davies AM, pictured with Marie Curie Senior Health Care Assistant, Tracy Tucker.

Can you stop sleepy Leo missing out?

*The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre (**telephone: 01656 725219**)*

DOGS Trust Bridgend is appealing to local dog lovers to help find a loving home for an unusual, very sleepy, homeless resident!

The rehoming centre staff are concerned that Leo the Greyhound will continue to be overlooked by thousands of potential owners – because he is always fast asleep when they visit!

The snoozy hound has been at the rehoming centre for nearly two months, and despite seeing so many of his furry counterparts find loving homes of their own, no one has shown any interest in him.

The charity estimate that nearly 1,000 people would have overlooked laidback Leo when searching for their perfect pooch.

The five-year-old Greyhound was handed into Dogs Trust through no fault of his own, when his racing career ended and is now hoping to wake up from his slumbers in a new home surrounded by a loving family.

SLEEPY LEO!

Linda Feagan, Dogs Trust Bridgend Supporter Relations Officer explains: "We take in hundreds of dogs of all shapes and sizes but I have never met a dog who sleeps quite as much as Leo. He is a real character and, when he is awake, is a sweet-natured, fun–loving affectionate lad who adores people and playing games.

"Leo is exceptionally handsome, so it's a bit of a shame he is often snoozing when he could be showing himself off to potential owners. He is a young happy, healthy dog who, like some people, just happens to really enjoy sleeping!"

Linda adds: "It is a bit of a myth that Greyhounds need lots of exercise; in fact, the complete opposite is true. As Leo demonstrates daily, they are actually quite lazy creatures and though they need a few short bursts of exercise a day, are actually more than happy to curl up and snooze for most of the day."

Call Dogs Trust Bridgend on 01656 725 219 or visit www.dogstrust.org.uk.

Choir's taster evening draws in 19 recruits!

THE Barry Male Voice Choir's recruitment taster evening was a resounding success, choir secretary Richard King reported.

"A total of 19 interested men turned up at the Barry Westend Social Club in response to the superb coverage given to the event by The GEM and the choir's talented musical director Dot Connell and accompanist Emma Arscott provided a gentle introduction to male voice singing.

This was followed by a pint, a buffet and a resounding sing song, accompanied by choir guitarist Slow Hand Shewring.

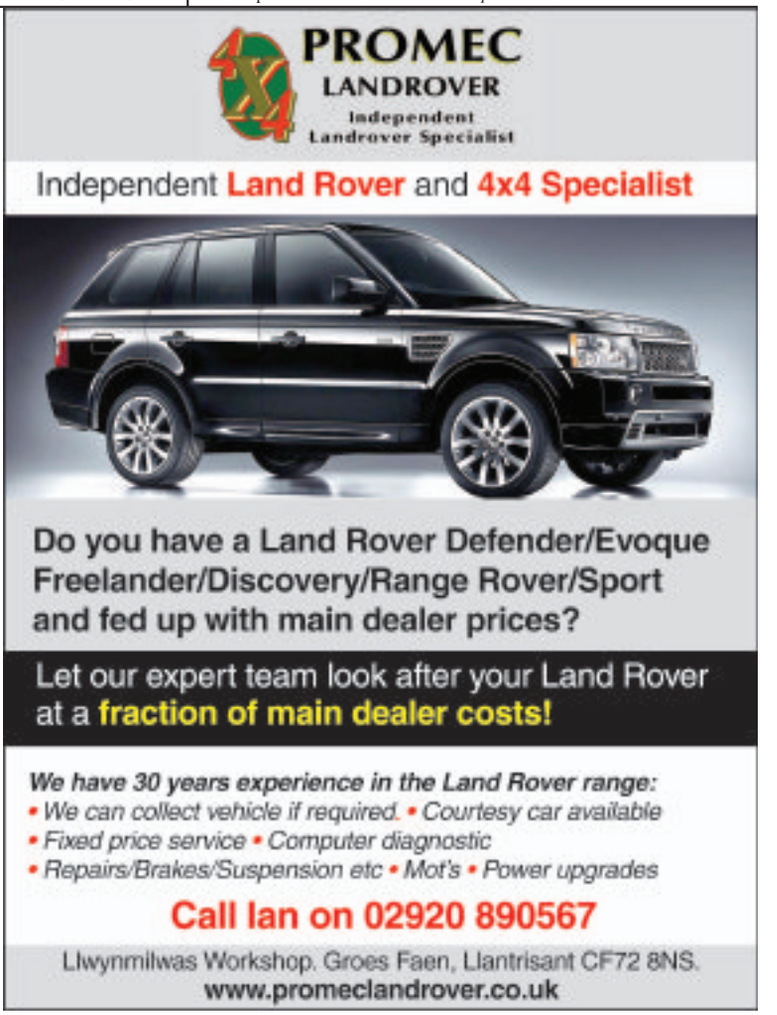
"Success will only be measured by those who turn up on Thursday for the follow-up rehearsal for new voices only," said a cautious Mr King.

"In fact, Thursday evening's first rehearsal of a series for new potential members was almost a question of standing room only!"

Richard King added: "Any gentlemen interested in singing, who have not attended our rehearsals for newcomers, will still be very welcome to join us on Thursday evenings at Trinity Church, Trinity Street Barry from 6.45pm-7.30pm.

"We are an ever increasing very sociable band of brothers, singing together for each other and for the wider benefit of the wider community".

For more information see www.barrymalevoicechoir.co.uk or phone 07790552565.



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Out and About with The GEM

Final Hunger Games outing fails to thrill...

ALL good things come to an end, though whether the *Hunger Games* franchise is good, depends on your own opinion.

What is unarguable is that the franchise has been a juggernaut, made a leading lady out of Jennifer Lawrence, and filled the 'young adult' gap left vacant by the *Twilight* franchise.

The final film of the series, *Mockingjay – Part 2*, comes 12 months after the first part which was an underwhelming film that saw plenty of talking but little action, something this second half will no doubt attempt to put right.

As the war of Panem escalates to the destruction of other districts by the Capitol, Katniss (Lawrence) must bring together an army against President Snow, while everything she holds dear hangs in the balance and the future of the world lies in the hands of a few...

As *The Hunger Games* franchise has rolled on, the films themselves have developed from the 'fight-for-survival' tones of the first two into war films with the battle against oppression driving the narrative.

What they haven't done, however, is ever coalesce into something cinematically satisfying. While Suzanne Collins' prose may well engage the reader, when it comes to the films, despite the talent involved they've never been that thrilling, that engrossing.

If the first part of this overly elongated farewell was a dull affair that saw little of any great note occur, then *Mockingjay – Part 2* comes armed with a little more style and substance, but ultimately feels both dragged out and undercooked, the story stretched to extremes at just over two hours but, lead characters aside, lacking any great depth.

Director Francis Lawrence has overseen 75 per cent of this franchise, and is more than comfortable with what he has to do.

The scope of the piece is impressive, this world full of rubble and destruction having a superb sense of scale;' while the crazy death traps of the first film are brought onto the streets as Katniss and Co's march towards President Snow is made all that trickier by oil that contains wire traps, machine guns and creatures that have more than a little bite in them.

It's when the stakes are most high, when the characters are in danger that the film really works, a sewer-set sequence tense, claustrophobic and well-handled, but all too often the film settles itself into the lowest gear and ploughs through the story.

There are story elements that are lofty and satisfying – Katniss becoming a propaganda tool rather than a revolutionary, the true cost of the battle as lives are lost and Peeta's (Josh Hutcherson) post-traumatic conditioning to try and kill Katniss – but these often get lost in the mix, while the way that some supporting characters are dealt with is poor and unforgiving, especially when you consider how stretched the story is across the two parts.

Jennifer Lawrence is always convincing as Katniss, who, reaching the endgame, has to make dangerous choices and decisions, while Hutcherson impresses the most as he unravels, desperate to save himself and help his friends, even if it may have lethal consequences.

A raft of quality actors back them up but feel undercooked, not least Julianne Moore's rebel leader whose story arc is so underplayed its resolution, which should be a grandstanding moment, barely registers.

It's this sense of so little happening that really grates. Across the two hours there is so much to bring to a conclusion, but for a final part of a four film (three book) story there is so little urgency it frustrates, leading to plot points and characters being given short shrift.

It also offers few surprises for those not having read the books, the story playing out with predictability that doesn't really help, while the love triangle element gets more time than the meatier story strand of standing up for what you believe in and fighting back.

All in all, it's something of a weak film, an argument for why, rather than splitting *Mockingjay*, it should have been one film that would have been punchier and had more dramatic heft – instead by splitting the films, and arguably focusing more on profit than creating something worthwhile, it fails to thrill.

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

VERDICT – The final farewell to *The Hunger Games* franchise isn't a fond one – instead *Mockingjay – Part 2* is an infuriating blend of undercooked plot and slow pace. Despite the loose ends that need tying, it never really hits any degree of urgency and rather than ebb and flow just potters along at a slow pace. It has its moments, but they are few and far between in this concluding chapter. Poor.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: ***The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1*; *The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies* (2014)**

WHAT'S ON and where

Farmers' market

THE next Bridgend Farmers' Market is at Awel y Mor Community Hall off Wellfield Avenue, Porthcawl, this Saturday, November 28, from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

Fresh produce available from local producers. Limited off road car parking is available at the hall.

Bingo afternoon

Rhoose Community Hall committee are holding their final bingo afternoon of 2015 on November 28 at 1.45pm for a 2.30pm start at the hall in Stewart Road, Rhoose.

This will be an early Christmas celebration with festive refreshments and a raffle. All welcome.

Beach clean

ON Sunday, November 29, Friends of Barry Beaches will be holding a beach clean and are looking for volunteers to help them remove rubbish.

They will be cleaning Jacksons Bay beach on Barry Island, meeting at 3pm adjacent to the toilets.

All litter picking equipment will be supplied, but wear sturdy boots and suitable clothing.

Friends of Barry Beaches will also be supporting the Wales Climate Rally this coming Saturday.

There will be a mass cycle ride from Callaghan Square to the Senedd, or meet at the Senedd steps from 2pm-3pm.

"Bring banners and fancy dress to ensure political leaders hear our voices before the vital climate talks in Paris," they urge.

Choir schedule

BARRY Male Voice Choir will attend the switching on of the Christmas Lights on Friday (November 27) at 6pm; and the Advent concert at 6pm on Sunday, November 29, St David's Methodist Church, Colcot Road.

Saturday, December 5, St Helen's RC Church, Wyndham Street, Barry (2pm), Christmas concert featuring the RAF St Athan Voluntary Band. Proceeds in aid of Air Ambulance Wales; admission £5, children admitted free.

Monday, December 7, Wetherspoons Sir Samuel Romilly Barry, 7.30pm; join the choir for an evening of community carols and seasonal fun.

Proceeds in aid of Sir Malcolm Sargent's CLIC fund for children sufferering from cancer. Admission free.

Saturday, December 19 in the afternoon, carol singing in Barry Hospital.

Toy and train sale

BARRY Toy and Train sale will be held this Sunday, November 29 at 10.30am-3pm in Barry Leisure Centre, Greenwood Street, Barry, CF63 4RU.

Organiser Chris Dyer said: "Our Barry event is proving ever more popular and offers a wonderful range of stall holders trading in the large and well-lit venue, which offers large amounts of space for everyone".

Credit Union advice

IN partnership with Co-op Electrical, Age Connects Cardiff and Vale is holding a session at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, on December 1 from (10am to 12 midday) when anyone can chat to an adviser from Cardiff and Vale Credit Union.

No appointment is needed.

Contact 01446 732385 for further information.

Valeways walks:

December 1, at 10am, Crwydro, Ynys Y Barri, Coffee Cove Cafe.

(Also on December 1 at 2.30pm, the coffee shop strollers meet at Llantwit Major outside the town hall).

Wednesday, December 2, at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet at Romilly Cafe, Cold Knap, Barry.

Christmas fayre

THE Windsor Bowling Club Christmas fayre takes place on Saturday, December 5 at 10am in the clubhouse in Robinswood Crescent, Penarth.

Entrance £1, includes coffee and a mince pie. There will be cake and bottle stalls, a big raffle, hampers, a bran tub, plants and more.

All welcome.

Llancarfan festive tree

THE lighting up of the Christmas tree will take place on Sunday, December 6 at 6pm at the ford in Llancarfan.

There will be singing of carols, mince pies and mulled wine (weather permitting).

The lights will be turned on by the winner of the Llancarfan Primary School painting competition (*to be announced*).

All welcome.

Shadows club meets

ON December 8, 8pm at the Conservative Club, Stanwell Road, Penarth (029 2030 9979), the South Wales Shadows Club meets – play, bring your guitar, or just listen; all welcome.

Blockbusters at CineMemo!

THE Memo has opened its doors to its brand new 4k digital cinema, and CineMemo audiences can now see new blockbusters like Spectre and Lady in The Van, and fantastic, live streaming events on a spectacular mega-screen nine metre wide image, with dynamic 22 speaker 7.1 surround-sound system!

The new cinema in the Memo's theatre is the perfect setting for the forthcoming season of National Theatre Live, Royal Opera House and stage-to-screen live streaming events.

Exciting news indeed, for local theatre and school audiences, who won't have to travel to big city theatres – instead, they can see all these incredible live events locally at CineMemo.

Visit the Memo's website to sign-up to programme updates - you'll be the first to know what's on and get the chance to win one of the monthly give-away competitions.

CineMemo has 500 seats, a café bar to pick up popcorn or favorite treats, and is licensed for a beer or glass of wine to take to your seat, so make sure you support the Vales new local digital cinema.

- ***For further information, visit www.memoartscentre.co.uk; call the box office on 01446 738622; or email boxoffice@barrymemo.co.uk***

CANOLFAN Y CELFYDDYDAU MEMO ARTS CENTRE

CINEMA • STAGE ON SCREEN
THEATRE • EVENTS

Spectre (12A)
Wednesday 25 Nov 16:15/19:15
Thursday 26 Nov 14:30

Brief Encounter (PG) & Tea Dance
BFI: LOVE
Thursday 26 Nov 12:30

The Lady in the Van (U)
27 Nov - 03 Dec
Multiple screenings available

Christmas Market & Santa's Grotto
Saturday 28 Nov
10:00 - 16:00
(last entry 15:30)

WEBSITE: WWW.MEMOARTSCENTRE.CO.UK • BOX OFFICE: 01446 738622
Memo Arts Centre, Gladstone, Barry, CF62 8NA Charity No: 1155291

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TEL. 01446 724040
Email: jane.barnett@cg.memoria.org.uk
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Website: chrisdyerfairs.co.uk

Cor Heol y March concert for Ty Hafan was a triumph

AT the recent Côr Heol y March concert for Ty Hafan, the children's hospice, the audience at a packed All Saints Church in Penarth heard a fantastic live performance by the S4C Choir of Wales of several songs from their new CD.

There were equally enthralling performances from guests Ellen Williams – a young soprano from Cowbridge – and Rhydian Jenkins, teenage tenor from Maesteg.

Musical director Eleri Roberts said: "The children worked very hard for the concert and were incredible on the evening, so focused and professional, and I am so proud of them.

"They fully deserve all the praise they received! And to share a stage with Ellen and Rhydian, especially for the final song Hafan Gobaith, which we all sang as a tribute to Ty Hafan's fantastic care for life limited children, was very memorable."

The choir has since been filming a Christmas episode of Dechrau Canu, Dechrau Canol for S4C, and will be performing again in a concert at the All Saints Church in Penarth on December 5, as guests of Welsh soprano Shân Cothi.

Copies of the new CD, entitled Suon y Don (Murmur of the Waves), are available from the choir (corheolymarch@gmail.com) and can also be purchased from Sain records (www.sainwales.com), Amazon and iTunes.

With songs in Welsh, English, Latin and even Japanese, it's an ideal gift for Christmas!

JR

VALE RAMBLERS TAKE THE HIGH ROAD TO BRECON..!

AS part of the new winter programme, two walks were on offer by Vale of Glamorgan Ramblers, both in the Brecon Beacons area.

For the more hardy of us, there was a 10-mile challenging walk, led by Helen Fletcher, but for those wanting a more gentle walk, there was also a stroll along the canal, led by Graham Woosnam.

The mountain walk started from the village of Pencelli and from there, the group made their way past Llaneugran church and crossing a field, they picked up the path which led up to the Bryn.

After catching their breath, the walk continued upwards, climbing Rhiw Bwlch y Ddwyallt, before turning east to reach the summit of Carn Pica.

The views were breathtaking from the top, and as the weather had turned colder, the mountain summits were covered in a layer of snow. After lunch, the descent was following Nant y Llamerch, before making their way back to the car.

The alternative walk, led by Graham, who due to ill health, has not been able to lead for a while, started from Llanfrynach.

After crossing fields, and marvelling at the views of Corn Du covered in snow, we made our way down to the canal; after a coffee break at Brynich Lock, the group followed the contour of the canal until we came to the village of Pencelli.

The weather was sunny, although cold, but our spirits were high as we enjoyed the peaceful quietness of the canal, seeing all the boats which have now been moored for the winter, and chatting to some boat owners who are in the process of winterising their boats.

The lunch stop was at Pencelli, the warmth of the local hostelry was welcomed, and they were very kind in allowing the group to eat their lunch in the beer garden.

Making our way back to Llanfrynach after lunch at a leisurely pace, on arrival at the village and making their way to the local hostelry for a swift half, both groups met up at Helen and Graham's home to enjoy a cup of tea and some lovely home baked cakes.

For further information regarding walks on offer, visit the Facebook page, or the group's website at: valeofglamorganramblers.co.uk.

GWENDA FITZPATRICK

Authentic family Christmas line-up at Dyffryn Gardens

ESCAPE the high street and spend this Christmas getting festive at Dyffryn Gardens.

You can see the house decorated with glowing lights and garlands, have a go at some festive crafts, hear some Christmas carols and visit a very special man in red!

Our activities and events run from the last weekend in November until Christmas Eve.

Father Christmas will be making a very special stop at Dyffryn this year. Visit him in his study in the beautifully decorated mansion away from busy shopping centres.

With timed tickets and lots of crafts to take part in while you're waiting, your family can avoid the queues entirely.

Visit him on the last weekend in November and the first two weeks of December between 11am and 3pm. He will be meeting each child and giving them a specially chosen gift.

You can pre book your tickets (£4 per child) by calling our visitor reception on 02920 590813. Normal admission prices apply to over-11s; under-11s receive free admission if visiting Father Christmas.

We've also got some free workshops for adults: make your own Christmas wreath with foliage taken from the gardens, make some felt snowmen to hang on your tree, or get the needle and thread out to make some lavender-stuffed chickens.

Workshops are free, but normal admission prices apply. Visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dyffryn-gardens for more information, or call 02920 590813.

Free TV licence for the over-75s

TV Licensing and Age UK is reminding people celebrating their 75th birthday in the next 12 months that they are entitled to a free TV licence.

Anyone aged 75 or over is granted a free TV Licence for their main address and over 4 million people across the UK already enjoy the benefits of the concession. Currently, 821 people in Llantwit Major, 3,798 in Barry, 873 in Cowbridge, 6,822 in Bridgend and 1,889 in Porthcawl have an over-75 licence.

The number of people aged 75 and over has increased by 89 per cent since 1974, with this age group now making up 8 per cent of the UK population and 11,480 people over 75 live in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Go to The GEM for the latest stories and breaking news...

There's lots more online....

www.barry-today.co.uk
www.cowbridge-today.co.uk
www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk
www.bridgend-today.co.uk
www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

Ni fyddai'n Nadolig HEB carolau

It wouldn't be Christmas WITHOUT carols

Dewch i wrando ar garolau Nadolig hyfryd yn y Neuadd Fawr a mwynhau gwydriad o rywbeth pefriog a mins pei. Tocynnau £15. Rydym ar agor bob diwrnod* felly dewch i fwynhau'r gerddi, prynu ychydig o anrhegion Nadolig o'n siop neu flasu ychydig o'n cynnyrch yn y caffi. *Ar gau 25, 26 Rhagfyr.

Hear some beautifully festive Christmas carols in the Great Hall and enjoy a glass of bubbly and a mince pie. Tickets £15.
We're open every day* so come and explore the gardens, pick up some Christmas gifts from our shop and taste our garden produce in the cafe.
*Closed 25, 26 December.

4, 11, 18 Rhagfyr 7.30pm
Gerddi Dyffryn

4, 11, 18 December 7.30pm
Dyffryn Gardens

Ymddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol
National Trust

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dyffryn-gardens
02920 590813

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CADOXTON & CARDIFF ROAD CHRISTMAS CHEER!

Specialist services will give you that boost – and more than ever at Christmas time!

PC 'n' Mobiles Repairs and Support at 4 Church Road, Cadoxton, is a vital business for the modern age – somewhere to get your 'tech' repairs done.

VFM'S reputation is growing throughout south Wales because it is a cash and carry for the trade and public that keeps its prices as low as possible. Based in Palmerston, VFM has always got lots of meat deals and supplies all the other grocery essentials too.

Allison of Allison's Celebration Cakes with a festive Santa creation.

CARDIFF ROAD, Cadoxton and Palmerston in Barry are home to lots of specialist, independent – and more often than not family – businesses providing great, realiable services to the public.

At any time of the year they provide invaluable support – at this time of year, they are a godsend. People want help on their doorstep and that's what they provide.

Businesses are more optimistic that economic growth can be sustained – but, of course, nothing is guaranteed, and the business owners The GEM visited are nothing if not determined to provide the very best in products and services.

One business that has been warmly received in the last year has been the **Vale Veterinary Centre at 7-8 Ty Verlon estate**.

It has proved hugely popular with local people since it was opened by Dr Richard Williams.

Richard explained: "We offer exceptional veterinary care and an impeccable service at either the surgery or at your home 24 hours a day."

Word of the Vale Veterinary Centre has spread and Richard and his staff now help clients from throughout the Vale including Barry, Sully and Dinas Powys.

The centre has ample parking. To book an appointment, call 01446 739739; and for more information, go to www.valevetcentre.co.uk.

CLASSICAL

What reinvigorates an area is entrepreneurs setting up new businesses and **Bliss Hair Design at 5 Church Road** is a case in point.

Kayleigh and Jessica have created a stylish, bright, classically decorated salon that deals in hairdressing for women, men and children.

One bride recently commented on Facebook: "I would like to thank Bliss Hair Designs for making the start to my wedding day a perfect way to begin.

"My hair and the hair of my maid of honour was beautiful and stayed in all day and the extra touches were brilliant – nothing was too much trouble and Kayleigh did everything we asked for."

Jessica told The GEM: "We opened on June 22 and it has gone really, really well. We've had a lot of support from people locally."

Christmas appointments are booking up quickly, but there's still time to book by calling 01446 677050. For more information on Bliss Hair Design go to Facebook.

PC 'n' Mobiles Repairs and Support at 4 Church Road, Cadoxton, is a vital business for the modern age.

Amer, the owner, who has a background in technology and working for top companies like Vodafone and Virgin Media, and who was the first triallist of cable modem broadband in Wales, provides a repair and sell business in 'tech' products.

If you've got a problem with a computer, a tablet, mobile phone, a laptop or a console, Amer is there to help. The business also does TV repairs. Sometimes people think their product is damaged beyond repair, such as in the case of a broken mobile phone screen. But Amer can help – and save you buying a new phone!

Amer said: "If we are doing a phone repair, we also give a customer a courtesy phone with a sim adaptor."

Amer can also build computers to 'spec', saving customers unwanted extra costs in paying for things they don't need. He'll also test it prior to delivery.

PC 'n' Mobiles Repairs and Support stocks a huge range of accessories, so for all your 'tech' products, just drop in to pick up what you need.

The business also has a Data Protection licence so you know that you are in good hands. For more information ring 01446 733721; email info@pcnmobiles.co.uk; or visit, www.pcnmobiles.co.uk.

LAST ORDERS

The Curtain and Net Centre at 2 Church Road has a huge choice of samples for customers to browse through.

'Made to measure' take around three weeks, and 'ready made' 10 days, so there is still time to get some rooms, or a particular room, sorted out in time for Christmas. The cut off date for orders is Friday, December 4.

Allison's Celebration Cakes on Barry Road has been at the heart of Cadoxton for 26 years.

For people who love cake decoration and sugarcraft Allison has all the catering ingredients and tools required – sugar flowers, marzipan, cake boards in lots of different colours, cutters, ribbons, edible and non-edible decorations, and cookie cutters.

Allison creates all sorts of wonderful cakes with unique designs for weddings, christenings, birthdays, anniversaries – and even divorces.

Last Friday, when The GEM arrived to have a look at her latest creations, Allison had already packed them away for her Friday evening at St Mary's Church Hall, Wenvoe, with Barry and Cardiff Sugarcraft Club. But she kindly, rushed off to the car and unveiled one of the cakes for a festive photo.

Barry and Cardiff Sugarcraft Club meets on the third Friday of the month in Wenvoe and people can go to the club's Facebook page for more information.

TOP NOSH!

Allan's Family Fish Bar has built up a huge following in Barry over the last 15 years. Allan relocated to **Vere Street** after running the Chippy on the Bridge in Ely.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

The Vale Veterinary Centre at 7-8 Ty Verlon estate. It has proved hugely popular with local people since it was opened by Dr Richard Williams.

Allan Payne of Allan's Family Fish Bar is a local legend in Cadoxton – you've got to be when you're giving mum a night off from the cooking!

ROY'S TOYS
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TOYS! TOYS! TOYS!
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Think Toys - Think Roys!

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'Celebrating 16 years in Cadoxton'
STEVE AND DAN WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL CUSTOMERS A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
During Christmas Week and New Year Week
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Allan's Family Fish Bar

A traditional Fish & Chip Shop
THAT DELIVERS
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A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our customers
All food freshly prepared including our own Southern Fried Chicken, Kebabs and Burgers. Full range of Pies, Pasties, Sausages, Curry and of course – Fish and Chips.
Open all day Monday to Saturday 11.30am - 10pm. Closed Sundays.
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All Major Cards Accepted

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" Claire, Paul and all the staff from The Laundry Rooms wish our all customers a very Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year"
Our beautiful shop is open 6 days a week, ready to help with all your personal or business laundry needs.
We offer an Ironing service and dry clean agency, in addition to our fully equipped service launderette.
Over the busy season, our 'mobile laundry' collection and delivery service is a must. Simply arrange a collection and we will pick up your dirty washing and return it washed/dried/folded - very popular with busy mums and senior citizens.
FREE Daytime Collections available for many areas.
Telephone, e-mail or simply pop in to The Laundry Rooms, and allow our elves to take the strain away!
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25 VERE STREET, BARRY. CF63 2HW
www.thelaundry-rooms.co.uk
info@thelaundry-rooms.co.uk
Remember…"Its where the best clothes hang out"

CADOXTON & CARDIFF ROAD CHRISTMAS CHEER!

Victoria Park's carol service for Macmillan

IF you like to get a feel for Christmas, enjoy the build up, love the traditions and want to get well into the spirit of Christmas, come along to Victoria Park at 6pm on the evening of Friday, December 11.

A spokesman said: "Join us for a fun evening singing along to Christmas carols and modern Christmas songs in the lovely surrounds of Victoria Park.

"The fabulous Barry Brass Band, led by the brilliant Julie Mahoney are very happy to present the seventh Annual Carol Concert in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care.

"Carols begin at 6pm and we will have song sheets for all, so come along, and bring your best singing voice with you. Enjoy all your old favourites, bring the whole family and all your friends and start to feel very Christmassy.

"Thanks to Cadoxton Bowling club we have the use of their lovely clubhouse and Rowena and the team will have cakes, tea, coffee, cakes and buns, warm soup and rolls all ready to keep you warm and in good voice.

"All proceeds from the event will go directly to Macmillan, so do come and have a great evening, and support a very worthy cause. Last year over £600 was raised, so let's see if we can beat it!"

Parks manager Jon Greatrex said: "I always start to feel like Christmas is here whenever I hear Christmas carols, and the atmosphere is even more special when this event comes around.

"Last year was loads of fun so this year we hope to make it better than ever! Rowena and all the Barry Brass Band team work so hard to make this happen. And, I promise NOT to sing, as long as everyone else does instead!

"Many thanks to Cadoxton Bowls Club for the use of their pavilion facilities and all the Victoria Park team are so pleased to be able to help out with this super event, do come and support it. Merry Christmas!"

The carol service for Macmillan Cancer Care will run from 6pm – 8pm. If you would like further information about Victoria Park or any events contact Jon Greatrex, Victoria Park Manager on 07742 571000/01446 709580. Google: Victoria Park, Barry; FaceBook: Victoria Park, Barry – What's Occurring?

Serving the local community

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

He offers a varied menu, including fish and chips, Clark's pies, kebabs, southern fried chicken and curries – all served with a cheery smile and lots of laughter.

Allan said: "We serve people from Barry, Wenvoe and Sully – and can also do home deliveries which are free if the order is over £7."

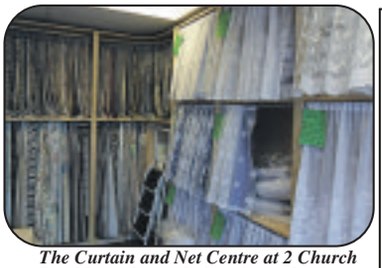
People can either eat in the fish bar or take their order away.

On the day The GEM visited Allan, customers were enjoying watching the cricket on Sky Sports.

Why not be kind to yourself in the run-up to Christmas and order the evening meal from Alan and save yourself time slaving over the cooker – that's what the fish bar is there for.

Steve's Barbers on Vere Street, Cadoxton provides top quality cuts for men. The shop is open six days a week: Monday and Tuesday 9am to 5pm; Wednesday 9am to 12 noon; Thursday 9am to 5pm; Friday 9am to 5.30pm; and Saturday 8am to 3pm. Steve wants to wish all customers 'The compliments of the season'.

Two local entrepreneurs, Kayleigh and Jessica, have opened Bliss Hair Design at 5 Church Road, Barry. The interior design is light, bright and classical. To book a Christmas appointment, you can call them on 01446 677050.



The Curtain and Net Centre at 2 Church Road has a huge choice of samples for customers to browse through.

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www.evs-group.co.uk

Cardiff 029 2048 1010
Express House, 23 Dumballs Road, Cardiff CF10 5FE

CADOXTON & CARDIFF ROAD CHRISTMAS CHEER!

Salon Caprice says 'Happy Christmas to all our clients'

Salon Caprice has been serving the people of Barry since 1975. This year the salon will be open until 3pm on Christmas Eve. Nicola, and the staff, want to wish all their customers a "Very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year".

A Happy anniversary at 'The Barrygate'

Staff at The Barrygate celebrated the business's first anniversary on November 20. The Barrygate features the best in Bangladeshi cuisine and is located at the top of Main Street.

Bliss Hair Design
Unisex Hair Salon
Kayleigh & Jessica
Would like to wish all clients
A Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year
Now Taking Christmas Bookings
Hurry to avoid disappointment!
5 Church Rd, Barry, CF63 1JY. 01446 677050
Find us on Facebook

Bliss Hair Design at 5 Church Road is a popular new addition to Cadoxton. The owners, Kayleigh and Jessica want to thank local people for their support since opening in June.

There's so much on at Cadoxton's Victoria Park all year round!

So apart from a good walk, what can you do at Victoria Park in Cadoxton?

PLAY – in the well-equipped play park, or run around on the grass in the safe 'traffic free' gardens.

SPORT – soccer and basketball in the multi court. If it's quiet you can skate or cycle as well – the staff don't mind.

BOWLS with Cadoxton Bowls Club.

There's a running track on the field during June, July and August

MUSIC – there's Cadstock, the outdoor Rock and Blues event! The Voices in the Park event; brass band concerts; a Christmas carol concert!

SPECIAL EVENTS – Charity Fun Dog Show; The Mount Pleasant Summer Jamboree; Flying Start Family Fun Day; Play Rangers; Easter Hunts and Quizzes; Halloween Monsters Ball; charity events

EDUCATION – Local school visits; nursery group nature play; story telling group; school sports days; nature and nest box days

EXHIBITIONS – In 'The Room in the Park'.

A small team of staff keep the gardens looking good and, helped by the local community and the ever supportive Friends of Victoria Park group, it is able to bring together a varied and comprehensive series of events throughout the year.

Park manager and Green Flag co-ordinator Jon Greatrex said: "Victoria Park has gained a name for outdoor events and general loveliness that reaches far beyond the local community of Cadoxton.

"At the recent Heritage Lottery Fund/Green Flag Awards, Victoria Park was held up as an example of good practice on a national scale.

"That sure is nice, but I'm more proud that locally we are still known as the 'Parkies at Caddy Park'. Come along and visit Victoria Park, Cadoxton, it's become our community's little green gem."

Don't miss the Scout post at Roy's Toys

Roy's Toys on Main Street is a must visit shop at Christmas – with all the toys, cards, wrapping and Christmas accessories you could possibly need. The shop has been making Christmas special for the people of Barry for 31 years. So what are the stand-out pressies for children this year. Carol said: "It's Avengers for the boys and still Frozen for the girls – and branded toys like Peppa Pig remain popular." Carol also hosts a Scout Christmas post box. Deliveries are across the Vale and Cardiff. Last posting is December 7!

The bead room
A jewellery makers paradise
Open: Tues - Sat 8.30am - 5pm
at boxes & busts
Christmas Gifts for the creative person in your life
GIFT VOUCHERS, BOOKS AND OF COURSE... BEADS!
'New class schedule coming soon'
For more details ring or call in the shop. www.boxesandbusts.co.uk
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Ultimate Barbers
Donna, Jack & Tom would like to thank all their customers for their support, and we also wish them a very Merry Christmas and a Happy 2016!
All types of Haircuts, Fades & Patterns
Please contact us for Christmas opening hours.
We now take bookings - please call for an appointment.
OPEN: Monday-Friday 9am-5.30pm; Saturday 8am-3.30pm
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TELEPHONE: 01446 742244

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www.allisonscelebrationcakes.co.uk

Salon Caprice
Now taking bookings for Christmas Hair Appointments
Nicky, Vicky and Anna would like to wish all their customers a
MERRY CHRISTMAS
Please call at:
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PARACHUTE JUMP RAISES FUNDS FOR LATCH CHARITY

ON Sunday, November 22 Zowie Smith, Julie David, Helen Davies, Sophie Hemsley, and little Paul Davies from the Swan Inn, Nottage, Porthcawl completed a daring parachute jump in aid of LATCH, the Welsh children's cancer charity.

This is a charity close to my own heart as I had a large brain tumour removed as a child in the 1970s, and no such support seemed available at that time.

The aim is to raise enough funds to purchase a caravan at Trecco Bay, Porthcawl (Karavan 4the Kidz) for respite, to help the children and their families through traumatic times.

A number of events over the coming weeks will boost the funds further: these include Rock 'N'Roll Bingo on Sunday, November 29 at 6pm; a fun quiz on December 6 at 6pm; a 'Mr & Mrs' quiz on December 13 at 6pm, and a Christmas jumper competition on Sunday, December 20, again at 6pm.

All are welcome to come along and join in the fun to raise money for such a worthy cause.

If you would like to donate to the charity, your help in raising vital funds would be gratefully accepted: www.latchwales.org.

HAYLEY WILLIAMS
hayley.williams550@yahoo.com

Story of a 'rugby spellbound people'

IF you are looking for a rugby book to buy a loved one for Christmas, Gwyn Prescott's *The Birth of Rugby in Cardiff and Wales* (published by St David's Press at £16.99), could fit the bill.

Wales fell in love with rugby union more than 100 years ago, and this feeling is as intense today as it was in the late 1800s.

How well I remember my uncles Jackie and Phillip Donovan taking me with them every Saturday afternoon in the late 1940s and early 1950s and the banter that would go on between supporters on the packed stands.

I wonder whatever happened to all those blue coloured programmes I collected week after week? Had I held on to them they would no doubt be worth a few bob today!

The Welsh obsession with rugby was already evident in 1899 when supporters packed Cardiff's Westgate Street, where once the River Taff ran through, from wall to wall for a Triple Crown decider against Ireland.

An advocate of soccer in the town commented in 1901: "*To carry one of those funny round balls through the streets meant running the gauntlet of curious onlookers*."

Rugby was undoubtedly the sporting heartbeat of Cardiff, with more than 230 clubs in 1895 the year the first Welsh Grand National was held at Cardiff's Ely Racecourse.

But how did this obsession with rugby grip Cardiff and the industrial towns of south Wales, and why did the Welsh quickly beome *'this rugby spellbound people'*?

In this new, expanded and heavily illustrated book, Gwyn Prescott draws on previously unused sources to provide a fresh and fascinating insight into the origins and early years of the game in Cardiff.

He outlines how its citizens of all backgrounds, its many distinct districts, and its commercial and religious interests took rugby to their hearts through the establishment of the famous Arms Park as the focal point of rugby in Wales.

This well researched book by Prescott, who played alongside Gareth Edwards in the 1965 Welsh Secondary Schools team and who later played for Cambridge University, has a foreword by Gareth Williams who writes: *'The incomparable Bleddyn (Williams) would have enjoyed reading Gwyn Prescott's book. So will you.'*

It is a must for any rugby fan worth their salt!

BOOK REVIEW by Brian Lee

RNLI concert is a chance to give something back!

WHAT will you be doing a month before Christmas? Frantically fretting about unbought gifts? Stressing to meet those pre-Yuletide work deadlines? Or generally feeling worn out by all the commercial festive faff?

If any of those apply to you, why not take time away from it all and indulge in a relaxing, restorative musical evening, with melodies and exquisite voices to soothe your seasonally-saturated soul? In doing so, you will also be supporting an invaluable Porthcawl institution.

Porthcawl Lifeboats celebrate 50 years of lifesaving at sea with a special concert at All Saints' Church, Victoria Avenue, Porthcawl on Saturday, November 28 at 7pm, a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the heroic work performed by this station, which was the busiest in Wales last year.

As part of their anniversary celebrations, the station was visited by the Princess Royal earlier this year, in honour of its outstanding work and all the fearless, selfless crew members, who constantly put their own lives on the line, to save the lives of others.

So do, please, come along and give your backing to this worthy organisation, run by such hardworking volunteers, some of whom have won prestigious awards, not only for courageous sea rescues, but also for tireless fundraising.

The concert features the brilliant Noteworthy Mixed Choir, along with superb soprano soloist Angharad Morgan. There will be music to suit all tastes, from Puccini to Richard Rogers, from arrangements of famous Welsh hymn tunes to a Liszt piano solo and a cello solo.

Refreshments will be served in the interval and there is, of course, a raffle! Local dignitaries will also be attending. Tickets are available from Maple and Little Maple in John Street and from Koko in Well Street. Tickets are £10 with all profit going to the RNLI in Porthcawl. There will also be tickets on the door.

For more information, contact Judith Shawe on 01656 786446. The organisers look forward to seeing you there, helping to boost vital funds for an organisation which, often in appalling and dangerous weather conditions, has given – and continues to give – such an outstanding service to the people of Porthcawl and beyond.

Amidst all the commercial frenzy, this is just what Christmas should be about. You will leave refreshed and humbled and indebted to these marvellous men and women. And with such a rich musical feast, you will not go home disappointed. See you there!

CAROLINE SARLL

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
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Jon Ian's penguins are keeping a close eye on passers-by!

The Reindeer Parade is almost here – and it's still the best!

by PHILIP IRWIN

COWBRIDGE'S key contribution to the festive season – the Reindeer Parade – will be back again with added extras this Sunday, November 29.

As the day has grown in popularity, so traders in the town have opened for business on the Sunday, and many try to offer something special on the day.

For instance, this year, there will be a farmers' market and craft fair, and many retailers will have 'one day only' special offers.

The town's chamber of trade was the first in south Wales to put on a reindeer parade, and the event has attracted large crowds in recent years.

The chairman of the chamber of trade, Alun John, told The GEM that in recent years it had been a case of 'if it ain't broke don't fix it' as the event has increased in popularity.

He said: "This is the chamber's way of saying 'thank you' to the customers who have supported us over the year.

"As in previous years, the local Lions club will be collecting for charity, and all the money raised this year will go to local children's charities.

"We had assistance once again from the Vale Council, and the barriers were sponsored this year by the estate agents, PA Black."

Enjoying its first year in business is Vale Cider, and owner Nick Craddock told The GEM that he would be offering a festive drink on the day – a hot mulled cider.

He said: "This is a special drink just for this time of year, and we will be selling bottles to take home if people enjoy it.

"We will also be selling our two regular types of cider – a medium dry and a medium sweet."

Another business that has embraced Reindeer Parade day is Colours, on Eastgate, which is run by Julie Jeans.

Julie stocks a wide range of goods, including ball gowns, mother-of-bride outfits, as well as hats, bags and shoes.

Julie said: "We are offering 10 per cent off for the day, so it is well worth taking a stroll up to Eastgate!"

Another business offering something special for the day is Pocketful of Presents, which is just behind the town hall. Owner Emily Osborne has always opened for Reindeer Day, and enjoys seeing the town so busy.

She said: "We will be open from 10am to 4pm, and we are offering 20 per cent off everything in the store!"

Back in Eastgate, Sally Stephenson in The Pencil Case is running an unusual Christmas service.

She said: "We have a 'letter to Santa' mailbox, so that children can go somewhere private and write down what they want, and then I can email the parents to let them know if they are on the right lines!"

At Jon Ian in the High Street, owner Esther Hitchcock is offering 10 per cent off one particular product line – weather-proof boots from Dubary of Ireland.

She also has a new line with winter in mind – bobble hats with interchangeable bobbles in every colour under the rainbow!

You can easily spot Jon Ian's display of penguins in their shop window. Esther says they have "happy feet" – as do any customers who get their footwear from Jon Ian.

There will be snow on the day – guaranteed by Beagles Country Kitchen in Old Mason's Yard near the town hall.

The creperie offers a huge variety of both sweet and savoury crepes, and other hot dishes too.

Chris Biggs, the head chef and manager, said: "We are bringing along a snow machine to provide an early White Christmas.

"Come along and join us. You can eat in, eat out (on the bridge), or take away."

As in previous years, the parade itself is scheduled to start at 12 noon. After the parade, there will be a chance for children to see the reindeer close up.

Helping will be the members of Latinist Major and Coleridge Lions Club and friends, including members of Coleridge Rotary Club.

They will be acting as stewards, and collecting for charity. The Lions will also be selling tasty burgers from their stall behind the town hall.

Following the Reindeer Parade, Santa will be in his Grotto to meet the children. This is also a hugely popular part of the day and, to avoid long queues, it is ticket only.

A Lions' spokesman said: "The tickets for Santa's Grotto can be collected at the west entrance to the town hall on a 'first come, first served' basis from 11.am. Each ticket will grant access to one family, but please remember that the number of tickets is strictly limited, since Santa can only stay for a short time.

"He will be in his Grotto between 1.30pm and 4pm and tickets will be allocated for slots between these times.

"There will be no charge for the tickets, but if you enjoy the experience, a donation in support of the work of Lions would be much appreciated, using Gift Aid if possible."

The day, as usual, will culminate with the switching on of the Christmas lights, at around 5pm.

Also, don't forget that over this weekend, Holy Cross Church is holding its Christmas Tree Festival, so the charming church will be filled with around 60 imaginatively decorated Christmas trees!

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The Magic of Cowbridge

Reindeer Parade

Sunday 29th November

Farmers' market on reindeer day

Romeo the miniature pony (see left) will be at the farmers' market.

THE Vale of Glamorgan Farmers' Market will be in Cowbridge for the Reindeer Parade on Sunday, November 29.

There will be 30 stalls, many selling locally produced food, to take home and cook, or to eat on the day.

The market will be expanded for the day, including local arts and crafters.

Market spokeswoman Myfanwy Edwards said: "To give you a taste of what to expect, there will be beef, lamb and duck burgers, home-made soup, crepes, wood-fired pizza, bacon rolls, pies and pasties.

"Add to that beer, cider, seaweed gin, chocolates, cakes, chutneys, eggs, Welsh cheeses, cordials and pasta.

"In the craft line, there will be alpaca scarves, hats and shawls, hand-made felt items, upcycled gifts made from wood, wool and willow, wooden craft items and dog related gifts and treats."

She continued: "The market will be open from 10am until 2pm and, to keep the children entertained while they wait for Santa to arrive, there will be a children's play area with lots of activities, plus a reindeer hunt around the stalls.

"Coming for his annual outing is Romeo the miniature pony, so there will be something for all the family.

"Do come and visit us to get into the festive spirit, and prepare for your 'local Christmas'.

For more information, go to www.valefarmersmarket.com

JRC

Open 10am-4pm

Sunday 29th November

Enjoy the Reindeer Parade & some festive Christmas Shopping at JRC

We also invite you to join us for...

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Looking back on last year's parade...

Images by MIKE WILCOCK

IS that a BBC news presenter masquerading at one of Santa's elves last year? It might well be!

As you can see from Mike Wilcock's pictures of Reindeer Day last year, everyone had a wonderful time.

Expect another stand out event this year with people travelling from as far afield as west Wales and England to enjoy the festive fun.

Get all the coverage from the Reindeer Parade in your weekly GEM and online!

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Their Famous Reindeer Parade & Celebrity Light Switch On with RUTH WIGNALL with LUCY and RHODRI OWEN

Plus Christmas Farmers/Craft Market

10.00am *Participating shops open in the town, live music from RAF St Athan Brass Band plus local bands and choirs and entertainment including a fun fair in the town all day*

11.30am *Children who wish to join parade, meet at United Free Church in nativity fancy dress*

12 noon *Reindeer Parade down the main high street*

2.00pm *Reindeer behind town hall for all to see and Father Christmas Grotto open in Town Hall*

4.45pm *Ruth Wignall, with Lucy Owen and Rhodri Owen, will officially turn on the Christmas Lights sponsored by the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Cowbridge Chamber of Trade*

www.cowbridgeguide.co.uk

The Glamorgan GEM *is proud to have instigated and supported this popular event*

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CHRISTMAS TIME IN DINAS POWYS

Dinas Powys... A VILLAGE FOR ALL SEASONS – ESPECIALLY CHRISTMAS!

ABOVE: Dinas Powys Brownies marked Remembrance Day at the village Cenotaph.

The Royal India Bar and Brasserie at 213 Cardiff Road has brought the very best in Indian cuisine to Dinas Powys.

ONE of the things many people yearn for is 'the village life' – the sense of community, continuity and safety. How can we explain popular programmes like 'Escape to the Country' unless we accept that there is a difference between city or town dwelling and the smaller tighter-knit village?

But for a village to be a success in community terms, it has to have meeting places and businesses helping with those essentials.

The Three Horseshoes in the heart of the village is a classic traditional pub, with its cosy log fire, choice of cask ales and regular toe-tapping entertainment evenings, featuring hits of the '60s, '70s, '80s and '90s.

Dinas Powys, with four main locations hosting businesses – the old village, Cardiff Road, Camms Corner and Castle Drive – scores highly on local services.

Sig and Viv's Natural Pet Pantry on Elm Grove Road, just a stone's throw from the centre of the old village, has just celebrated its first anniversary.

The owners, Tony and Caryn Lynch set themselves the task of running a business dedicated to making sure dogs got the very best food possible. And why not? They are, after all, man's best friend!

Many people are concerned about the quality of food they give their dogs, and Tony and Caryn found themselves in that position when they were caring for their daughter's dog Selsig (Sig), who had a long-term skin complaint, despite various treatments from the vet. They researched pet nutrition in an attempt to find a cure.

Tony explained: "I couldn't believe some of the scandalous practices that I came across in the pet food industry. Processing, labelling, dodgy ingredients and nasty preservatives were just some of the issues I came across.

"We changed Sig's diet, feeding him Biologically Appropriate Raw Food (BARF) and within three months his skin condition cleared completely and he hasn't been back to the vet since."

The experience encouraged Tony and Caryn to open up Sig and Vivs Natural Pet Pantry on October 11, 2014.

Tony said: "We are not a normal pet shop. We provide high-quality natural dog food, along with lots of in-depth advice. We supply dog food as nature intended!"

The shop is the only stockist of Gentle dog food in the whole of Wales! The cold-pressing technique preserves the nutritionally important ingredients of the food, and the process creates food in which natural enzymes and vitamins are retained. There are other top dog food names as well, such as Canaghan and Natural Instinct.

Tony's enthusiasm and knowledge is something to behold. The couple's own dog, Shelby, a rescue animal from Cardiff, suffered from a skin condition, too, but is now in fine fettle – thanks to a new diet

Tony said: "When we started, we had three freezers of food; now we've got six. People travel from as far away as Newport, Ebbw Vale and Porthcawl to buy their dog food here."

The shop also has a wide range of dog accessories – doggy towels, leads, bowls, coats, dirty dog doormats – as well as five-star treats.

One celebrity client, who pops in to get his dog the very best, is Sam Warburton.

You can look the business up on Facebook, or at www.sigandvivs.com; for more information, go to 02920 515141.

Community Hub

The White Gecko Craft Lounge

This popular new community hub at 13 Camms Corner has captured the imagination of local people, who like the relaxed craft shop and coffee shop mix and its friendly atmosphere.

Although it opened only a few weeks ago, the residents have already welcomed it as a new meeting place in Dinas Powys.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 24)

Shutter Hire Photography at Camms Corner can take that much-treasured family portrait.

Crafty Art in Dinas is ready for Christmas.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ORDER, SECTION 16A ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

DICKENSIAN FAYRE – DINAS POWYS

FRIDAY 4th DECEMBER 2015

Order Under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984
For the prevention of obstruction etc

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Vale of Glamorgan Council have made an order under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as follows:-

WHEREAS during certain hours of the day and date specified in column 1 of the Schedule hereto the streets or part thereof listed in column 2 of the said schedule will be used for the holding of a relevant event as described in Section 16(A)(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Council, pursuant to the powers conferred by Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 do **HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT** in order to facilitate the holding of the event, enable members of the public to watch the said event and to reduce the disruption to traffic likely to be caused by the event the following regulation shall be observed:-

THAT, except as provided by the order, the said streets or parts thereof shall be closed to all vehicular traffic, including pedal cycles, with the exception of Emergency Services Vehicles between the hours specified in column 3 of the said schedule. The penalty for infringement of the said regulation is a fine not exceeding £1000.00.

Schedule

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Friday 4th December 2015	**Station Road** from its junction with Britway Road adjacent to The Square, to the vehicle access to the Star Hotel (both sides of The Twyn). Local diversions shall be in place via The Mount and Britway Road.	5.00pm to 9.30pm

Local signed diversions shall be in place.
Access for Pedestrians shall be maintained.

Dated this 26th day of November 2015

M. E. Punter, Director of Environment & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA

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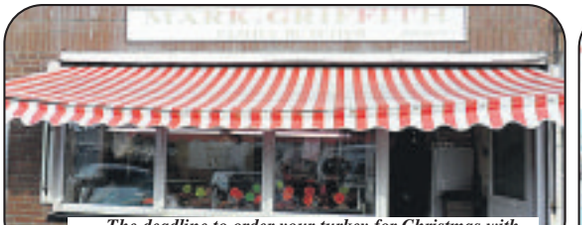
Christmas Time in Dinas Powys

Don't forget Dickensian Fayre!

Caryn and Shelby of Sig and Viv's Natural Pet Pantry recommend 'the very best for your pets...naturally'.



The deadline to order your turkey for Christmas with Mark Griffith Family Butcher is Friday, December 18.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

Run by Sian, Sarah and Sara, it is a popular place for people who love arts and crafts and want help to develop their own skills. The ladies stock all the necessary items to help people keen to have a go.

The three entrepreneurs run workshops in a host of activities including quilting, knitting, crochet, making wreaths. There are after school clubs for youngsters – a Halloween one was held recently for kids. Mums and Dads should note that another drop-in day is planned on Tuesday, December 22 (10am to 4pm) at which children can make Santa sacks!

For more information, call 02921 152628; *www.whitegeckoevents.co.uk*.

CHRISTMAS TURKEYS!

Mark Griffith, Dinas Powys's butcher, always has a fantastic range of choice cuts, fresh eggs, and specials like 'minted lamb steaks' and 'Chinese pork'.

Mark, who has served the local community for 38 years, knows many of his customers by name.

When The GEM called he was enjoying a chat with one of his regulars about the latest news in the rugby. Make sure you order your turkey soon – the cut-off date is Friday, December 18.

DINING

The Royal India Bar and Brasserie at 213 Cardiff Road has brought the very best in Indian cuisine to Dinas Powys.

There's a great, wide-ranging menu with starters; tandoori specialities; chicken, lamb, biryani, vegetarian and seafood dishes.

There are also 'chef's recommendations'. To book, or for more information call 02920 513800.

FAMILY PORTRAITS

Shutter Hire Photography at Camms Corner is an opportunity to treat your loved-one or loved-little-ones to a photo session with an award-winning photographer.

It's a great local place to get your family portraits done – and they often make a great Christmas present. For more information, call 07703 774166.

DICKENSIAN FAYRE

Don't forget that Dinas Powys's celebrated Dickensian Fayre will be held on Friday, December 4 this year.

Lots of Christmas presents for sale and a true start to the festive season!

The White Gecko Craft Lounge is a popular new community hub at 13 Camms Corner.

Westhill Forestry
Dry Seasoned Ash Logs
Delivery to the Vale & Cardiff
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KID'S CHRISTMAS CRAFT SESSION
MONDAY 22ND DECEMBER, 10am – 4pm
Come & make a Santa sack ready for Christmas Eve!
Drop in session - £1 per child (all ages welcome)
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Big challenges ahead to find £25m cuts in services

VIEW FROM THE VALE

by Coun **NEIL MOORE**
Leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council

I BEGIN this month's column by reflecting on the issues that are currently facing the Vale of Glamorgan Council, as we head into the budget rounds for another year.

Unfortunately, as usual we have to look at the services that we are able to provide as a council, against the ever-depleting financial support from the UK Government and thereafter from the Welsh Government.

Normally, at this time of the year during the budget-setting process, we know roughly how much money in the rate support grant we will get for the next financial year. However, this year that is not the case.

As I write this piece, I await with bated breath the announcement from the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his comprehensive spending review on Wednesday, November 25. However, I don't expect good news, although I hope that I am wrong.

Once this is known, we will still have to wait until January 8 before the Welsh Government announce their spending plans, which will include the amount of money they will allocate to this council.

In the meantime, we will be making some assumptions, and for those interested in the stark reality of the council's dilemma you will find it outlined in the initial financial budget reports to the cabinet dated November 16 on the council's website.

Leaving that aside, and realising it's only a few weeks until Christmas, I have been reviewing the line-up of council-supported events for the 2015 festive season. ..

I am really pleased to confirm that over the past few months, the Vale of Glamorgan Council's economic development team has been working to put together a programme of events that will see the Vale's town centres and shopping streets become a hive of activity this December.

Therefore, to help make this a reality and assist in enabling our town centres and shopping areas to prosper, the council's team of officers have worked with communities and organisations, across the Vale of Glamorgan, to find ways of encouraging shoppers to visit and explore what's on offer.

At the beginning of the festive season we will be helping by supporting the Christmas light switch-on celebrations in all of the Vale's towns and a number of our villages, too.

Everyone involved has worked to pull out all the stops this year and collectively we have put together a series of events that I hope will be bigger and better than ever before.

The programme of festivities kicks off with the High Street Christmas Light Switch-On in Barry this Friday (November 27). So wrap up warm and come along and enjoy festive street entertainers, live music and meet Santa and his reindeer.

After this, Santa's next stop will be Llantwit Major on Saturday (November 28) to enjoy live music, a lantern parade and to see the town's lights switched on at 7pm.

On the same day, King Square, Barry will once again come to life with a spectacular 3D Christmas projection show transforming the town hall building.

Last year, the display was acclaimed in the national press as the best Christmas lights switch-on in Wales and we are hoping to make this year's event bigger and better.

The Christmas atmosphere will start at 12 noon with live music, festive street entertainers and street artists as well as a Christmas market featuring local traders. The 10-minute projection show will start at 5pm and features a festive story with music and jolly Christmas images.

Then we will count down to the big switch-on of the Holton Road lights. Both the light show and the switch-on will be introduced by local hero and current IBF featherweight champion Lee Selby.

This will be the Vale's showpiece event and I am very confident that we can build on last year's success and bring even more people to King Square.

Sunday (November 29) will see a very busy Father Christmas and his real live reindeer return to the ever-loved Cowbridge reindeer parade.

GEM readers who attend will be able to enjoy food stalls and a play village, before the Christmas lights are switched on at 5:15pm. On the same day, the Penarth Christmas Festival will also be getting under way.

The festival starts with a parade at 1.45pm at West House and the festival will include nativity scenes, live music and entertainment, plus of course another appearance by Santa.

The lights at this event will be switched on at 5pm. At the same time, in St Athan, Behnaz Akhgar, BBC Wales weather presenter, will be turning on the village's Christmas lights as part of an event which starts at 3pm and features festive street entertainers, live music, mulled wine and mince pies.

Once the town centres and high streets across the Vale are lit with Christmas cheer, the council will continue to support a series of events designed to encourage business and the shopping experience on offer at our unique shops and enterprises.

First up will be the traditional Dickensian Christmas fayre in Dinas Powys on Friday, December 4. This long-running event in the heart of the old village is a great antidote to city centre crowds.

This is equally true of the Christmas artisan market taking place on Saturday, December 5 on Barry's High Street and of the Crafts for Christmas event at St Donat's Castle on Sunday, December 6.

All of these events should mean the Vale is fully into the Christmas spirit by the time the 'Let It Snow' event returns to Central Park in Barry on Saturday, December 12. For one day only, the park will become a festive arena complete with snow, festive live music, street entertainers and Christmas play workshops. This is an excellent family day out and I hope many of you will be there.

To help boost local trade and, hopefully, make the challenge of Christmas shopping a little easier, the Vale of Glamorgan Council is supporting traders in Penarth and Cowbridge in their festive late night shopping nights.

Both town centres offer something very different and I am delighted we have been able to work with them to give shoppers the chance to see all they have to offer at a time that is often more convenient.

You can visit shops in Cowbridge until 8pm on Thursday, December 10 and shops in Penarth until the same time on Thursday, December 17.

Finally, for all of those residents who find themselves still searching for gifts as the big day approaches there will be one last big local shopping event in Llantwit Major on Saturday, December 19.

Shoppers can browse at craft and gift stalls for some last minute Christmas presents while enjoying festive music and entertainment at the town's shopping precinct.

These events are great examples of how the Vale of Glamorgan Council works to support local businesses and traders. Thriving local businesses have long been part of the fabric of the Vale and are something that this council will continue to work to see flourish.

Finally, and I am sorry to refer back to finances, but before anyone criticises my comments about supporting town centres, I can confirm that as a council we will be seriously reconsidering if (and it's a big if), we should introduce car parking charges in Barry and Cowbridge town centres, after having conversations with local traders and business people in both towns.

Instead, we will be looking at it again and working with both town councils to come to a solution, if there is one, as it is clear that there are concerns and I obviously understand why that is the case.

However, we also have to realise that providing car parking throughout the Vale of Glamorgan costs about £350,000 a year which is equivalent to roughly increasing the council tax by slightly less than 1 per cent.

This is just to maintain and keep them open. As town centre car parking is not one of the council's statutory duties (something we are legally required to do) and neither is it one of our priorities in spending, particularly in the current financial climate, clearly we have to find alternative ways of keeping them open and finding alternative cuts elsewhere to balance the books.

I began this column by saying things will not be easy next year and beyond and finding at least £25m of cuts in services in the next three years will be difficult.

However, be assured, we will set priorities that will achieve the best results and services within our limited resources.

Has anyone seen Tarzan?

PODS have, unfortunately, mislaid the star of their forthcoming family panto, *Tarzan*, and they are asking for help from the good people of Penarth to return him to the stage of the Paget Rooms in time for opening night on Thursday, December 3.

Tarzan is described as being... *"over six foot tall with unkempt brown hair and an unusual gait, which has been put down to the fact that he has been brought up by a family of apes".*

PODS are very concerned for his welfare as last seen, he was wearing only a loin-cloth, which is unsuitable for the recent cold weather.

His best friend, Cheetah, is so upset by his disappearance that he has not eaten a banana in days.

After a number of possible sightings reported, there are strong rumours that he might reappear in the Penarth Christmas parade at 3pm on Sunday (November 29).

Anyone seeing him there is asked to direct him immediately towards the Paget Rooms.

Everyone is invited to find out whether Tarzan is found safe and well by coming to the Paget Rooms at 7.30pm on Thursday or Friday night!

Tickets for 'Tarzan' are available from Tenovus, Windsor Road, www.pods-penarth.org or 02920 712260.

KIM HERNIMAN

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SAUNDERS LEWIS: *'Time to sweep away character assassination,'* says speaker

RIGHT: The plaque is unveiled in Penarth, at the one time home of Saunders Lewis, by Lord (Dafydd) Wigley, former Plaid Cymru MP and AM, *second from left.*

A BLUE plaque has been unveiled at the Penarth home of Saunders Lewis – to mark his contribution to the literary and political life of Wales in the 20th century.

Mr Lewis was a leading playwright, poet, historian and literary critic and also a founder member of Plaid Cymru – the Party of Wales.

The plaque was unveiled by former Plaid MP and Assembly Member Dafydd Wigley at Westbourne Road, where Mr Lewis lived for more than 30 years until his death in 1985.

Guests were welcomed by Adrian Roper, who chairs the Penarth branch of Plaid Cymru, and by Granville John, the current householder, who has preserved some of Mr Lewis' furniture in his study.

Assembly Member Bethan Jenkins, the party's culture spokesperson, said Mr Lewis had been at the very heart of the party and was a key part of the party's history.

Lord Wigley thanked Mr John for allowing the plaque to be put up at Mr Lewis' old home. He said Saunders Lewis had made history and he referred to his extensive contributions to many fields of Welsh life in the last century.

Guests at the ceremony included two grand-daughters of Mr Lewis, Siwan Jones and Bethan Elen Jones, and Siwan's son, Sion. They were joined by representatives of the Roman Catholic Church and party members and supporters, including chief executive Rhuanedd Richards and members of the party's history society.

In the evening, Dafydd Wigley gave a speech on Saunders Lewis, Plaid Cymru and Europe, linking Mr Lewis' vision of Wales taking its rightful place as a European nation, with the current debate on membership of the European Union.

Lord Wigley also said it was high time to sweep away the campaign of character assassination which had been waged against Mr Lewis over the years.

Describing him as "one of the giants of Wales", he said: "It is always important that a nation remembers its leaders in the fields of literature, drama, history, philosophy, religion or politics and Saunders Lewis was a leader in all these six spheres of Welsh life in the middle part of the 20th century.

"It is particularly timely that we should at this juncture – as we face a referendum on our continued membership of the European Union – remember the European vision that he brought to Welsh politics.

"In this context, the time is ripe to re-assess his contribution and to see him as a mainstream European politician, way ahead of his time in Wales.

"It is also time to sweep away the character assassination deliberately waged against him both during his life and even after his death. He was a great man whom we should – as a nation and across political boundaries – be proud to salute."

Guests at the evening event, which was held at Evenlode Primary School, were welcomed by Mr Roper on behalf of Plaid Penarth.

The meeting was chaired by Dafydd Trystan Davies, the party's Assembly candidate for Cardiff South and Penarth, and a vote of thanks was given by Dafydd Williams, who chairs the Plaid Cymru History Society.

Mr Roper said later that Plaid Penarth, which organised the event with the party's history society, was extremely grateful to everyone who made the day such a success.

"I am particularly grateful to Granville John and his wife, Philippa, for their support and hospitality and to all the people who attended the unveiling and the evening meeting," he said.

"We are always happy to welcome new members and anyone interested can come and meet us at one of our monthly meetings, which are held at the Albion, Glebe Street, Penarth on the first Tuesday of each month from 7.30pm."

ROWLAND DAVIES

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ORDER, SECTION 16A ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

HIGH STREET BARRY MARKET EVENT

SATURDAY 5th DECEMBER 2015

Order Under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984
For the prevention of obstruction etc

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Vale of Glamorgan Council have with the consent of the Welsh Ministers made an order under Sections 16A and 16(B)(6)(b) Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as follows:-

WHEREAS during certain hours of the day and date specified in column 1 of the schedule hereto the streets or part thereof listed in column 2 of the said schedule will be used for the holding of a relevant event as described in Section 16(A)(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Council, pursuant to the powers conferred by Sections 16A and 16(B)(6)(b) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 do **HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT** in order to facilitate the holding of the event, enable members of the public to watch the said event and to reduce the disruption to traffic likely to be caused by the event the following regulation shall be observed:-

THAT, except as provided by the order, the said streets or parts thereof shall be closed to all vehicular traffic, including pedal cycles, with the exception of Emergency Services Vehicles between the hours specified in column 3 of the said schedule. The penalty for infringement of the said regulation is a fine not exceeding £1000.00.

Schedule

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Friday 4th December & Saturday 5th December 2015	**High Street Barry, between Island Road and East Street**	From 7.00pm Friday 4th December 2015 To 9.00pm Saturday 5th December 2015

Local Signed Diversions shall be in place via Queen Street, Island Road and Broad Street

Escorted access through the closure will be maintained for HGV's that are too large to make the turn from High Street into Island Road.

Dated this 26th day of November 2015

M. E. Punter
Director of Environment & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council
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IN AND AROUND BRIDGEND
IN THE RUN UP TO CHRISTMAS

Take a good look around Bridgend
...if you want to make things a little easier over Christmas!

Williams and Evans are a established men's outfitters in the town centre.

by PHILIP IRWIN

BUSINESSES in the Bridgend area are getting ready to fight for their share of the Christmas market by offering a great product range, good service and excellent value – a package that definitely deserves to be given a closer look.

And in the town centre, this coming weekend would be a good time to start, as Santa is coming!

At 11am this Saturday, November 28, Santa and his reindeers arrive in Bridgend town centre before making their way to Santa's Grotto in Carnegie House on Wyndham Street.

Between 11:30am and 3pm, visitors will be able to see the reindeers as they rest on Wyndham Street, and then at 4pm Santa will be switching on the town's festive lights in Dunraven Place outside Barclays Bank.

You can also find him in his grotto at Carnegie House on Wyndham Street from 12pm to 4pm. He will then return between 10am and 4pm each Saturday up to and including 19 December.

A visit to the grotto costs £5 per child and includes an opportunity to take a photo plus a choice of gift. Bookings can be made at Carnegie House and all proceeds will be distributed to local charities by the Bridgend Lions Club.

Although the town has had a mixed press in recent months – the town council expressed concern about empty shops there are many positive signs too, with companies showing faith in its future by opening new ventures.

Modern new office buildings in the town attracted the Vale estate agents HRT to Bridgend, and a new tapas bar and photographic studio have opened recently.

There are also considerable signs of old buildings being renovated around the town, and those behind the investment, a mixture of private capital, EU money and Welsh Government funding, are confident that it will lead to a revived, vibrant town centre.

There has been much discussion recently about the Rhiw Centre, so The GEM spoke to one of the traders in the market there. Alastair Rosenberg runs **The Rug Stall** and he believes that the market is one of the town's strengths.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 30)

Are you ready to party?

AS the party season approaches, it's time to think about the little black dress!

There is no better way to impress than by wearing a great fitting dress! At **Samantha B,** we have a wonderful selection from velvet, lace and sequins for the evening. Finish it off with a faux fur coat from Olsen or marble and you'll be the belle of the ball!

We also have some fantastic palazzo trousers in navy or black teamed with a twin set, a great alternative, yet still feminine!

To finish the outfit off, we have some beautiful jewellery and scarves that complete your look!

We also have a fantastic selection of co ordinated separates, from great labels such as Olsen, bianca, marble, Poppy and Emreco. For December, we will have a complementary wrapping service and sherry – so what are you waiting for? Call in and receive 20 per cent off this week!

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IN AND AROUND BRIDGEND IN THE RUN UP TO CHRISTMAS

SO MUCH ON OFFER…

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29)

He has certainly been there long enough to have a sense of perspective. He took The Rug Stall over 17 years ago, and it had been there under a previous owner for 20 or so years before that.

For a business to survive that long there must be a formula, and in Alastair's case it is simple – offer a massive range at keen prices.

He said: "We stock designs from traditional to super-modern, and have a wide range of catalogues if someone wants to order something special."

He and all the other traders in the Rhiw are owner-operators, and believe in the value of personal service.

The reason the Rhiw has been in the news, of course, is that the old multi-storey car park there has been demolished – to be replaced by a landmark £9m development featuring an all-new car park, 28 apartments and a commercial unit suitable for a shop, café or restaurant.

It has been a plank of council policy for a while now to get more people living in Bridgend town centre, and this development addresses that aim.

Funded by the Welsh Government, Coastal Housing Group and Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), the project forms part of the Vibrant and Viable Places (VVP) programme which has secured £5.9m support from the Welsh Government.

The aim is to create a safer, more modern car park while creating a community of people living in the town centre who will use local shops, boost trade and help support the night-time economy.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 31)

COMPANY'S ANSWER TO CHRISTMAS PROBLEM!

Why not take advantage of Dainton Self-Storage's free Christmas offer?

A BRIDGEND company is offering a free solution to an age-old Christmas problem.

Dainton Self Storage are aiming to bring festive cheer to Bridgend charities and families this Christmas by offering free storage space at their new, self-storage facility on Coity Road.

Dainton's manager, Jamie Richards, explained: "As the countdown to Christmas begins, many local charities collect presents, warm clothing and food supplies to distribute to those in need.

"Charities can find themselves under pressure to store the higher-than-normal amount of donations they receive during December before they are distributed.

"With this mind, Dainton Self Storage is offering to lend a helping hand, by providing a limited number of storage units free of charge."

The secure storage units will be available on a first come, first served, basis.

Jamie Richards continued: "Christmas can be a very exciting time for families; however, it can also be a very difficult time for those experiencing hardship.

"There are some wonderful, kind-hearted people in Bridgend who work tirelessly to help others and we wanted to lend them our support.

"If there is a charity or organisation that would like to take up our offer, please contact me on 01656 750293, or email *bridgend@dainton.com*"

Jamie went on to say that Dainton are also happy to help local parents hide presents from their curious children or prying partners by offering free 'Elf Storage' until Christmas Eve.

"We all remember as children the excitement of Christmas and the strong temptation to have a sneaky look for the presents our parents may have hidden around the house.

"With Elf Storage, your presents are safe from curious children and prying partners. We're offering this free service to help keep the magic of Christmas alive – and so that we stay on Santa's good list, of course!"

Presents can be dropped into the reception at Dainton Self Storage on Coity Road where they will be stored in a secure storage unit set aside for this purpose. Dainton will store the Christmas gifts ready for collection on or before December 24 – perfect for storing bikes or a collection of smaller presents!

Anyone who wants to take advantage of Dainton's service should call 01656 750293, email bridgend@dainton.com or visit the self-storage facility on Coity Road, Bridgend, CF31 1NS.

IN AND AROUND BRIDGEND IN THE RUN UP TO CHRISTMAS

Christmas in Bridgend...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31)

The car park will be ready for October 2016 while the apartments and commercial unit are set to be completed by the end of March 2017.

The 28 apartments will be classed as affordable housing, with separate parking, and will be aimed at people on modest incomes who either work in or near the town centre, or who commute.

As part of the VVP programme, more vacant space above existing town centre shops will be converted into affordable accommodation.

A BCBC spokesman said: "The new car park will offer 248 bays and 54 cycle spaces as well as customer lifts, dedicated disabled and family parking, a ground-level pedestrian crossing to give easy access to the nearby market and town centre shops, flexible parking payment options, and modern security measures including CCTV, improved lighting and new safety standards designed in partnership with South Wales Police."

Clearly, it's a positive development for the town, but retailers need support during the transitional period.

Edward Davies of **Williams and Evans** in Queen Street knows a thing or two about transitional periods. There has been a menswear shop in this premises for a staggering 115 years.

That covers some massive changes for this former market town, but he is confident that they can continue to prosper.

He said: "We have clothing ranges that people trust, such as the German brand of trousers, Meyer, and Camel Active jeans and jackets.

"We also stock Magee sports jackets and Hawick Knitwear – 100 per cent first cut lambswool."

He said that the parking situation had been eased by two new private car parks, one on Derwen Road and one opposite Wilkinson's, as well as the council-owned car parks at Brackla Street, Tremains Road, Tondu Road and Cheapside.

Another new business in the town, and a name that may well be recognised by GEM readers, is **Mandy Thomas Photography.** Mandy has supplied The GEM with photographs of many local events in recent years, from Remembrance Day to the Bridgend Youth Theatre, and from The Bryndethin Cat Centre events to features on local people.

Her new studio, in Dunraven Place, gives her a chance to develop her passion for portrait photography. For more information, go to *mandythomasphotography.com*

A fixture in the town centre for almost 50 years was **Riverside Hardware** which was, unsurprisingly, alongside the river in those days.

It is 12 years since the company moved to North Road on the Bridgend Industrial Estate, and it has been a story of continued expansion ever since.

Ryan Woodbridge, of Riverside, said: "We have been a family-run firm for more than 60 years now – something we are very proud of, and moving to our present premises has meant that we could increase our range of stock.

"We are the main dealers for Calor Gas in Bridgend and the Vale, with same day delivery, and we carry large stocks of Draper tools and Dickies work clothing."

Another company that has found the Bridgend Industrial Estate a good base to trade from is **Keltic Fires,** which opened in July.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 32)

An artist's impression of how the new Rhiw car park and apartments will look.

The new arts centre in Bridgend, Carnegie House, will also be hosting Santa in his grotto!

In the Rhiw indoor market, The Rug Stall has been in business for around 40 years, and offers a very wide choice to customers.

Dogs Trust Bridgend
Christmas Fair
Action Pets Bridgend,
Brynmenyn Industrial Estate, CF32 9TZ
Sunday 29 November
11am - 3pm
Activities include:
Santa Paws in his Grotto with gifts for kids AND dogs!
Face Painting
Tombola
Grand Raffle
Kids crafts
Dogs Trust Merchandise
Homemade Cakes & Hot Drinks
Entry fee: Adults - £2
Children & dogs - FREE
Free Parking
For more information, call us on 01656 728923
DogsTrust

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For that special occasion
• Christmas Parties
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• Golf Trips
• Nights Out
• Stag/Hen
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• Weekends Away
• Corporate Travel
• Distance no object
FOR A HIGH QUALITY SERVICE AT A COMPETITIVE PRICE CALL NOW -
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Email: easywayminibus@aol.com
Easyway Ltd, Kent Road, Bridgend Industrial Estate, Bridgend CF31 3TU

The Rug Stall
We stock a vast variety of rugs, and runners, in a wide range of colours, sizes and styles to suit all tastes and budgets.
• Modern and traditional rugs • 100% wool handmade rugs
• Children's Rugs • Doormats • Bathroom rugs and sets
• Kitchen mats • Runners • Shaggy rugs • Anti slip mats
• Anti slip underlay to stop rugs slipping on hard floors or carpet • Carpet protector
If you still cannot find anything suitable from our vast existing stock, we can track down the rug you're looking for...
All major credit cards are accepted.
Visit us at BRIDGEND INDOOR MARKET
Tel: 01656 656664

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Serving the Vale and surrounding areas for 14 years!
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STAFF: WE WELCOME APPLICATIONS FROM MOTIVATED, QUALIFIED NURSES AND EXPERIENCED CARE STAFF.
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AGCCC CSSIW
INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

IN AND AROUND BRIDGEND IN THE RUN UP TO CHRISTMAS

'Elfsteddfod' aiming for a festive record!

A recently developed area of the town that has attracted new businesses.

Part of the showroom at Keltic Fires.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31)

Matt Richards, of Keltic Fires, told The GEM: "We are delighted with the response we have had from customers in the Bridgend area.

"Business has been very good. We stock a full range of fires, and our best sellers are electric, multi-fuel and gas."

Of course, Christmas isn't all about shopping. It is a busy time for pubs and restaurants and at the Star Inn in Wick, Emily Francis is gearing up for another busy festive period.

Emily has been running the Star for three years now, and she enjoys the fact that it is a traditional pub with a real fire and real ales. In fact, it was recently highly commended by CAMRA in Bridgend and the Vale.

She runs a family-friendly pub, with dogs welcome, too, and the restaurant is open six days a week (including for Sunday lunch.

Emily added that there were still a few spaces left for parties to book for their Christmas meal. The Christmas menu, and the pub's other menus, can be seen on *www.thestarinnwick.co.uk*

Another company in the area that has a Christmas tradition is April Care Solutions.

From their base in Hendre Road, Pencoed, 25 staff look after around 50 service users.

Matthew Hughes, of April Care, said: "Every year we have an open day for service users, with a Christmas theme – and a visit from Santa.

"This year, it will be on December 9, from 11am – 5pm, and the Dogs Trust will be paying a visit, too, with a rescue dog or two."

Finally, don't forget that on Saturday, December 12, the annual 'Elfsteddfod' is being held in Bridgend town centre. Once again, Bridgend will be trying to set a world record for the largest ever gathering of elves!

Anyone taking part will be given free elf hats and the event will also include festive street entertainment, an elf treasure hunt, elf workshops, live music, face painting and more.

Come along to Adare Street from 11am on December 12 to help the town set that world record!

ABOVE: T & H Butchers are geared up to supply Christmas meats to their customers.

DOGS TRUST ADVICE

THE Dogs Trust in Court Colman, Pen y Fai, is holding a Christmas fayre this Sunday, November 29, at Action Petz in Bryncethin, from 11am-3pm.

The event aims to raise funds to support the work of the Dogs Trust, particularly in re-homing dogs.

Linda Feagan of the Dogs Trust told The GEM: "We will be open as usual over the Christmas period, so people can come along and look at the dogs, but we will not be re-homing any until the New Year.

"The reason for this is that we do not encourage anyone to get a dog 'on impulse'. People still do this, and it accounts for a significant number of the dogs that come to us in the months after Christmas.

"Also, it is difficult for a dog to settle in a home over the Christmas period, as so much is happening. Visitors will still be very welcome during this period."

Halo offers help to local sporting talent

THE organisation that runs leisure centres in Bridgend county is urging the borough's sporting talent to apply for assistance through the Halo Sports Foundation.

Halo Leisure runs the borough's leisure centres for Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and its foundation (run in conjunction with the national GLL Sport Foundation and supported by Sport Wales) gives ambitious sportsmen, women and children in the area a helping hand.

The foundation offers thousands of pounds worth of funding and free training opportunities to local people (of all ages).

Simon Gwynne, the partnership manager, said: "As a not-for-profit organisation and registered charity whose primary aim is to provide the local community with active leisure facilities, we are delighted to be able to offer support through the Sport Foundation for another year.

"We see it as an opportunity to put something back into the community that has supported us so well."

He continued: "Many of the county's most talented sports people struggle to meet the rising costs of competition."

The Halo Sports Foundation is currently supporting 114 local sports people (able bodied and disabled) across a variety of sports.

They use Halo's gyms, group exercise classes, pools, racket sports courts and indoor and outdoor sports pitches to keep fit and prepare for their next competitive event.

Local sporting stars have until February 20, 2016, to apply for a share of the Sport Foundation support. Applications open on December 20, 2015.

For more information, go to www.halosportfoundation.org.uk

the STAR INN Wick
Ewenny Road, Wick CF71 7QA
HAVE A VERY CRAFTY CHRISTMAS!!
Join us at The Star Inn, Wick on Saturday 5th December 10am to 12 noon for Coffee and Crafts.
All Crafts are locally made!
Coffee and Tea from £2.00 including biscuits
If you wish to host a craft table with us you are more than welcome. It is £5 per table, please call 01656 890080 for more information.
Tel: 01656 890080
www.thestarinnwick.co.uk

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Give your existing kitchen a brand new facelift with our unique Kitchen Genie makeover

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Mr & Mrs Brooks.

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The Six Bells in Penmark hits right notes

Dining at The Six Bells, Penmark, is always a special experience.

THERE'S nothing like the traditional Welsh country pub at Christmas – and the Six Bells in Penmark hits all the right notes, with great food, a cosy atmosphere, entertainment, and a function room for special events.

Owners Mark and James are great hosts and have developed a reputation that draws people, not just from the Vale, but Cardiff and further afield.

Christmas Day is fully booked and all weekend party nights have sold out, but during the week, daytime and evenings are still available (*telephone 01446 710 229 for bookings*).

The Six Bells is an ideal, relaxing venue for office lunches, too and has ample car parking. If you would like a menu sent to your business, just email *mail@sixbellspenmark.co.uk*.

The Christmas prize draw will be held on December 18 with lots of prizes available – prize draw squares are just £1 each on sale behind the bar now.

For more information on The Six Bells, Penmark (CF62 3BP) go to www.sixbellspenmark.co.uk.

THE SIX BELLS
Penmark
• Village Pub & Restaurant •
The perfect choice to celebrate the festive season
Christmas Fayre
served Tuesdays - Saturdays
27th November - 24th December.
3 Course Meal
Lunchimes £17.95 Evening £23.95
Christmas Prize Draw
Friday 18th December 8pm.
Warming mulled wine & festive nibbles.
Great prizes - only £1 a square.
Now available from the bar.
Function Suite
available to hire over the Christmas period for larger groups & office parties.
Great Food • Great Drinks • Great Local
01446 710229
www.sixbellspenmark.co.uk

Rhoose gets ready for Christmas

'Rhoose traders give everyone a warm welcome'

I HOPE people are looking forward to the pre-Christmas period in Rhoose, when they start to get that sense of urgency but also fun.

Make sure you order your turkey, buy your presents, get spruced up and be ready to have fun with Christmas parties and a very warm welcome from the traders of Rhoose!

There is a seasonal invitation to enjoy all our pubs and restaurants.

by Coun Jeff James

We must not forget the true meaning of Christmas and please see the list of church services:

December 13, Messy Christingle 4pm – 6pm, St Peter's.

December 20, Nativity service 9.45am, St Peter's.

December 20, Nine Lessons and Carols 6pm, St Peter's.

December 24, Crib Service 5pm, St Peter's.

December 24, midnight Eucharist 11.30pm, St Curig's, Porthkerry.

December 25 Christmas morning, Family Eucharist 10am, St Peter's.

A happy Christmas from Rhoose, and all it has to offer!

Warm welcome at Deano's Barber Shop

DEAN, CIARAN AND BIBI.

DEANO'S BARBER SHOP was established in Rhoose village in 1999. Dean Chamberlain is the grandson of Michael Olympios, owner of Michael's Hairdressing Salon/Barbershop from Cardiff Docks and Clifton Street between 1956-1990.

Deano's is a traditional barber shop running a walk-in service, open six days a week, offering reduced rates for children and senior citizens.

Dean also stocks a large variety of e-cig liquids and hardware.

Deano's is at 7 Fontygary Road, CF62 3DR; 01446 710434; follow on Facebook, too!

DEANO'S BARBER SHOP
A Merry Christmas & a big thank you to all clients
Join us for a complimentary festive drink and mince pie throughout December!
Open
Mon 8.30am-4pm. Tues 7.30am-4.30pm.
Wed, Thurs & Fri 7.30am-7pm.
Sat 7am-4pm.
OAP rates available
Stockists of a large variety of E-Cig liquids and hardware
7 Fontygary Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DR
Tel: 01446 710434

PASSPORT TO PLAY LTD
Rhoose Road, Rhoose, CF62 3EQ
QUALITY CHILD CARE FOR CHILDREN AGED 6 WEEKS – 7
School transfer facility available to local school.
Out of school club available for children aged up to 11 years - Monday - Friday.
Monday – Friday 7.30am – 6.00pm.
Tel: 01446 719591
E-mail rebecca@passport2playdaynursery.com

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Supplied, fitted and guaranteed from only £795

Free no obligation survey
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Free Advice - evenings & weekends available
Please call for great deals
01446 711739
07779 544439
www.stairliftsolutionswales.com

Birthday celebration following...

Amazing year for Salon 100!

ABOVE: Cutting Salon 100's first birthday cake.

CELEBRATING their first year in business, Annette and her team at Salon 100 have had an amazing year.

They marked the event with a drinks reception, and the feedback from clients is how pleased they are with the professional and friendly way that the salon is run.

Annette explained: "They love the fact that investment has been made in to the team by way of training, also the introduction of leading products, such as Kerastraight and Olaplex.

"We are now attracting clients from as far away as London.

"The team recently attended Salon International at London's Excel, because I'm keen to keep ahead of the game and ensure that we are always able to offer the most up to date techniques.

"Olaplex has been a real game changer – a firm favourite of celebrities. This ground-breaking technique works from the inside out, to strengthen, condition and literally reconnect the hair strand structure where broken.

"It's amazingly simple and it's how Kim Kardashian's hair wasn't totally ruined by 'platinumgate'."

The team at Salon 100 are truly passionate about keeping their clients' hair in 'tip-top' condition, and you can always rely on the best possible advice, both during your consultation at the salon, and aftercare advice.

They offer a number of retail products to suit individual needs and are now stocking Neal & Wolf, a luxury brand that is sulphate free, sodium chloride free, paraben free, dea and tea free and cruelty free.

They won't dry out the hair or damage it - they simply let the hair flow naturally. None of the products is tested on animals, so they're also cruelty free, and because UV protection is contained throughout the entire range, they even shield the hair from environmental damage.

If you've not visited the salon before, pop in; you will love its friendliness and warmth.

Salon100 Hair & Beauty
LADIES & GENTS HAIRDRESSING
Stockists of quality products:
MATRIX CND KERASTRAIGHT OLAPLEX
Beautician offering
Waxing, Lashes & Brows, Facials, Tanning & Nails.
New products available
Dreamweave Mascara & Beautiful Brows.
All the girls at Salon 100 would like to wish all their clients a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Open Tues-Sat from 9am.
100 Fontygary Road, Rhoose CF62 3DU
01446 711598
facebook.com/salon100rhoose

RHOOSE GETS READY FOR CHRISTMAS

See more Rhoose businesses on page 36.

'Ewe'nique' sales and letting agent EweMove expands its flock!

SALES and letting agent EweMove is welcoming a new member to its flock, as Jenny Solman joins the team in Rhoose.

Jenny, who has been selling houses in the area for many years, commented: "I am delighted to be bringing the unique and award-winning EweMove brand to Rhoose.

"I am confident that our innovative approach to estate agency, combined with our 24/7 service and passion for baa-rilliant customer experience, will be hugely beneficial to everyone looking to buy, sell or let locally!

"The key to our success is our quirky brand and our extensive marketing. We make sure that our customers' properties really do stand out from the crowd, giving them the attention they deserve.

This includes providing amazing photographs, 2D and 3D colour floor plans, as well as carefully-crafted marketing descriptions," she said.

According to Jenny, 95 per cent of buyers now search online for property, which is why EweMove lists properties on all of the major property portals to generate exposure and enquiries.

"This, combined with EweMove's 'Mammoth Marketing' approach means that our sellers' and landlords' homes get more interest, more quickly. We also operate a 24/7 service to ensure that any viewing, enquiry, purchase offer or application is never lost."

EweMove's award winning 'Ewereka!' system enables prospective buyers and tenants to book their own appraisal and viewing appointments online, without needing to call an agent or make time to visit an office. They can also apply or make an offer for a property by phone, or online 24 hours a day from the comfort of their own home.

EweMove pride themselves on a unique customer service, with a motto of: 'We'll Never Fleece Ewe.' Customers are not required to pay upfront fees or hidden charges.

This service-focused estate agent is rated '5 Star' and 'Excellent' by their customers on the independent review platform Trustpilot.

For anyone wondering what their home is worth, or what the rental value of a property in Rhoose is, the EweMove website features a free online valuation tool that provides an instant valuation report.

For further information, contact 01446 349101 or visit Ewemove.com/Rhoose where the free, instant valuation tool can be accessed.

EweMove.com
Sales and Lettings
Contact us for a FREE, no obligation property appraisal.
01446 349101
jenny.solman@ewemove.com

Lovely lattes, hot roast turkey baguettes... It's Coffee Time – and the chance to spoil yourself!

Coffee Time in the centre of Rhoose is a family-run business and Glenys Watson is always keen to delight customers with festive specialities – how about Christmas spiced latte? Or gingerbread latte? Then there's toffee apple cake! And, of course, it wouldn't be Christmas in Rhoose without Glenys's hot roast turkey, stuffing and cranberry baguette.

Coffee Time
Open Breakfast Time to Tea Time
Christmas Baguettes - Turkey with Stuffing and Cranberry now available
Christmas Spiced Coffees
Full Lunchtime Menu available
Full Breakfast Menu available all day from 9am
Hygiene Rating 5
Buffets Available
We cater for all events
Open Monday - Saturday 9am - 4.30pm
21 Fontygary Road, Rhoose
Tel. 01446 711600
A Merry Christmas to all our customers

There's lots planned for Christmas at The Fontygary Inn.

Fontygary Inn offers festivities ...and fun

KEVIN, Kerry and Peter are celebrating their ninth Christmas at the Fontygary Inn.

Kevin said: "We've got a fantastic menu available at just three courses and this year children have their own menu of £6.95.

"It's perfect for celebrating with friends and family or partying with colleagues.

"There is limited availability so book soon to avoid disappointment.

Kerry pointed out there will be the popular festive evenings too.

"The now traditional Race Night is being run again on Boxing Day from 7.30pm

"New Year tickets are selling fast and include a disco until the early hours and a buffet.

"All our usual offers are still running during the festive season including the lunch-time specials, sizzler and curry evenings.

The FONTYGARY INN
Celebrate Christmas & New Year with family & friends at the Fontygary Inn
FESTIVE MENU
now being served.
PARTY BOOKINGS
being taken. (Limited availability)
NEW YEARS TICKETS
on sale at £7.50 to include disco & buffet.
Don't miss the traditional
BOXING DAY RACE NIGHT
from 7.30pm
OPEN CHRISTMAS DAY
(Drinks only) 11am-2pm.
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
every Friday & Saturday.
Open every day for food from 12 noon.
Breakfast served Saturday & Sunday 10am-12pm.
TRADITIONAL SUNDAY LUNCH
served 12-5pm.
SPECIAL LUNCH TIME MENU
available Monday to Saturday 12-3pm
just £9.95 for 3 courses.
Sky Sport & BT Sport showing all live matches
Check out our website for details of menus & entertainment.
Fonmon Road, Rhoose
Tel. 01446 711221 www.fontygaryinn.com

APPOINTMENTS STILL AVAILABLE AT BARBUZZ

BARBUZZ Hair & Beauty Salon, based in Fontygary Leisure Park, in Rhoose is a popular salon dealing in hairdressing and beauty.

There are still appointments available in the run up to the Christmas period. Either pop in, or phone 01446 710608.

Lisa and the staff would like to wish all their customers a wonderful Christmas.

Barbuzz
Hair Design@the Bay
— HAIR & BEAUTY SALON —
ALL ASPECTS OF HAIRDRESSING - VERY REASONABLE PRICES.
Open to our local community and visitors.
Beauty room for manicures, waxing etc.
A Merry Christmas to all our clients.
Bookings now being taken.
Fontygary Leisure Park, Rhoose
01446 710608

Sublime Beauty says: 'Book your Christmas appointments now!'

SUBLIME BEAUTY is a classic independent business – local staff providing a friendly, professional service to local people with clients coming from the village and surrounding area.

The salon is ultra-modern, light and spacious, offering stylish haircuts, colourings and beauty treatments.

Local ladies are advised to get their Christmas appointment in early by calling 01446 711799, to ensure they don't miss out on that pre-festive beauty treatment or cut.

Sublime Hair also has its own beauty therapist carrying out treatments for nails, lashes, waxing and even mini-facials.

Vanessa, the owner, said: "We want to thank all our clients for their continued suport and wish them a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year."

Sublime Hair
4 Stewart Road, Rhoose, CF62 3EZ
A MERRY CHRISTMAS
to all our clients from Vanessa, Tyler, Katie & Naomi.
SPECIALISING IN COLOURING TECHNIQUES.
We use Affinage Kitoko ASP salon professional products.
'HAIR UP'
for parties & special occasions
THE BEAUTY BOX at Sublime Hair
Beauty & Holistic Treatments with Naomi
Manicures, Pedicures, Nails, Facials, Waxing & Massage, Minxnails & Opi Gel colour
Open Tuesday - Thursday 9am - 5pm
Friday 9am - 7pm, Saturday 8.30am - 3pm
Tel. 01446 711799

Rhoose gets ready for Christmas

The Highwayman Inn is set for a Merry Christmas

The Highwayman Inn has a first class menu and lots of entertainment over the Christmas period.

THE HIGHWAYMAN is a very popular venue with its excellent food and evenings of entertainment.

Wayne Morgan, the chef and co-owner with Derek Gaynor, told The GEM: "Our Christmas parties are filling up quickly – in fact Christmas Day was booked up as early as September1"

Other nights over the festive period are available, but it is advisable to book up in advance. A lot of people enjoy popping in for a drink and enjoying the entertaiment.

Wayne explained that people will notice some recent improvements.

"We've also done interior refurbishment recently and new cladding on the outside of the building."

Many people arrive at Christmas Eve and don't want to have to cook prior to the big day; if so, why not book in for a meal at The Highwayman? There are still spots available.

Wayne, Derek and all the staff would like to wish all their customers a 'Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year'!

CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHTS
Available Monday-Saturday
FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHTS INCLUDE ENTERTAINMENT.
3 COURSE MENU ONLY £24.95
Saturday 5th December
JIMMY GEE Great Male Attraction
Friday 11th December
RICHARD MORGAN Vocal Instrumentalist
Saturday 12th December
MARC SIMON First Class Vocalist
NEW YEAR'S EVE
Normal Menu available for diners until 9pm.
From 9pm onwards only £3 a ticket
includes disco & karaoke plus nibbles until late
Open every day 9am 'til late; Open Christmas Day 'til 3pm;
Closed Christmas Day Night; Open Boxing Day
A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our customers. We look forward to seeing you during the festive season.

Minibus service available for diners - phone for details
Free to Rhoose, Penmark and Aberthaw
Nurston, Nr. Rhoose
Tel. 01446 710205
www.highwayman-pub.com

MOUNTING TOLL OF SHIPS OFF OUR 'STERN AND INHOSPITABLE COAST'...

BY BRIAN KEITCH

WITH all the storms we have had of late, let's cast our minds back 150 years to when a 'visit' to the Vale sea shore was far from a pleasure.

For unfortunate souls it was their last visit to the beach. According to, among others, Lloyd's Index of Shipwrecks, at least 20 vessels came to grief here in the 10 years 1860 to 1870 – and quite possibly more. Records show that at least 60 souls were lost, but many more were never accounted for.

Recalling a trip by steam packet, Charles Cliffe in his *Book of South Wales* of 1848 states: '*Shoreward, the objects passed are Sully and Barry Island, and the small port of Aberthaw, the headland beyond which is graphically called Breaksea Point.*

'*The coast from hence to Nash Point is stern and inhospitable until the beautiful wooded dingle of St Donat's, with its castle and watch-tower, opens with an effect like an oasis in a stony desert.*'

Despite the provision of two lighthouses by the Brethren of Trinity House on Nash Point following the dreadful *Frolic* disaster of March 17, 1831 – in which some 78 passengers and crew lost their lives (no survivors to tell the tale) the Nash Sands still claimed at least five vessels over the period mentioned above.

They were practically all sailing ships of various descriptions. With the advent of steam power in the 1820s and a spate of early packets coming to grief along the coasts of Ireland and south Wales, by the 1860s the steam ships seemed to have overcome those early problems.

With power, manoeuvrability and speed they could cope quite well, even in pretty extreme conditions. Not so the many sailing vessels that went from one small port to another, or even further afield across the ocean.

A change of wind direction, tidal sets and sometimes just bad seamanship made travel by sail still precarious. Many of the victims were filling the graveyards of the churches in the Vale.

On November 14, 1860, Porthkerry beach claimed the sloop *Reserve* carrying stone: all three crew were lost. There was a south-westerly force 7 gale in progress.

Nash Point comes into focus on July 28, 1861 when the barque *Mary And Deffus* (built in 1855 at Prince Edward Island) foundered there after a 'collision'. The ship was carrying coal under the control of Captain Groves. Although classed as A1 at Lloyd's, only three of the crew of nine survived.

Later the *Stag* – schooner, under the ownership of Rusden, Gosling & Co, was lost off Penarth. No further details are available.

On the first of September 1861, the *Villiers* got into trouble on the Mixon Bank. A bit out of our remit here – but the tale of one of the crew is worth a mention: '*A young lad by the name of Peachy, one of the survivors of the Villiers, made local headlines by surviving three shipwrecks in six months.*

'*In early 1861, he was aboard the barque Orissa when it sank off Cape St Verde on March 20. With other survivors he landed at Liverpool and joined the Villiers. Landed at Swansea after the loss of the Villiers, he signed aboard the Fanny, which was completely destroyed by fire at sea on October 22'!*

One wonders if he was welcome on board another ship to continue his seafaring career!

Breaksea Point, Aberthaw, was the final resting place of the *Sarah*. A smack carrying coal was a victim of a south-westerly force 6 gale; so was one of the crew on April 2, 1862.

The following November a far worse loss was recorded at – yet again – Nash Sands. With a cargo of citrus fruits and leather, believed to be from Spain, the brig *Gillies* was victim to a WSW gale force 9 with all the crew of 12 lost.

On January 19 the following year, it was the *Mary Jenkins* whose turn it was to perish on the Nash. Carrying wheat, this schooner went down with all hands in a gale force 10. No names recorded.

Also, in January that year, the Russian barque *Heinrich Sorenson*, which was bound from Cardiff to Bordeaux in ballast, was driven ashore in a storm onto Breaksea Point, Aberthaw.

With the ship's boat lost the crew of 12 tried to swim ashore. Help, however, was at hand because William John of Limpert Farm and three other local men went into the water to rescue the crew.

Mr William John had plenty of experience in rescues along this dangerous stretch of coast and on this occasion was awarded the RNLI silver medal for bravery.

The *Magnet*, built as a smack and converted into a schooner, was carrying copper ore from Padstow to Swansea when she foundered at Porthcawl on October 29, 1865.

Barely a month later on November 25, the *Elphis*, under the command of Captain Blackburn, was carrying coal. Although classed as A1 at Lloyd's, she was no match for the dreaded Nash Point – coming ashore in Cwm Nash.

Although ashore on the beach, the south-by-east force 10 gale ensured that only two of the crew of 11 lived to tell the tale. A couple of months later, on January 5, 1866, the *Bonanza,* carrying coal from Newport to the Cape of Good Hope, was caught in a WSW force 9 gale, driven on the beach at Barry Island (then still very much an island) and stranded. Only three of the 12 crew survived.

In March the same year, the schooner *Mounts Bay*, registered in Truro, was lost at Aberthaw; nothing else is known. At about the same time and same place (March 6, 1866 to be exact), the barque *Emil* bound for Cardiff from Bremen in ballast foundered on the Breaksea in a storm force 11.

Of the crew of 11, three were lost. Amazingly on the 28th of the same month, the same part of the coast claimed yet another victim – this time the schooner *Charm* which hailed from Penzance.

Captain Young was the master but again, no record of the victims at Aberthaw.

Further up the coast at Port Talbot, the *Venus* went down with copper ore in 1867. We then have a succession of boats 'stranded and lost' for which information is minimal. On February 5, 1868 the *Sampson* was lost on Sully Island in ballast against a south force 6. Of the crew of five, four got to safety.

On September 25 the same year, *Eliza* from Penzance was lost on Barry beach. In March the following year the *Wabash* with a cargo of cast iron ingots and pigs was lost with all hands on the West Scar Sands. Meanwhile on October 10, 1869 the *Golden Fleece*, on its way from Cardiff to Alexandria, came to grief on Lavernock Point.

This time we have a fuller account: '*Foundered in wind conditions WNW force 5. The Master was acquitted of blame, the court being of the opinion that the loss of the vessel was probably caused by one of the coal ports in the bunker becoming adrift.*

'*Having left Cardiff on the day she was lost carrying 2,445 tons of cargo, with the wind fresh from the SW the Master deemed it prudent to anchor in the Roads whilst the crew were employed in putting the ship in order for her voyage.*

'*Her boilers were banked up, maintaining a full head of steam and the pumps at 8pm indicated the ship was perfectly tight and dry. At 9.30pm the second engineer reported water coming out of the starboard bunker into the boiler room, and that she was filling fast. Her cables were slipped and within minutes her engine was going ahead, the Master heading for the shore to run her aground.*

'*The boats were got ready, all hands called on deck and distress signals fired. The steamer then suddenly 'heeled' over to starboard and appeared to settle, so her engines were stopped and with the exception of cook's assistant, who was missing, the crew left the vessel in their own boat.*

'*She sank bow first at 10pm, one man going down with the ship.*'

But Nash Point was again the last resting place of a ship – this time the *Amelie* on April 17, 1870. On a voyage from Cardiff to Lucon with a cargo of coal and other unspecified goods she was stranded and lost. Only one crew member survived.

In November of the same year the schooner *Emily Agnes* on her voyage from Bristol to Dublin with a cargo of stone under command of Captain Watkins was lost off Penarth in a SW force 6 to force 9. Three of the crew were drowned.

Finally, the last word goes to the Nash Sands (again). This time the casualty was the *New Dominion* sailing from Charlotte Town, Prince Edward Island to Cardiff with a cargo of oats, under the command of Captain Lawrence Kirkham and classed as A1 with Lloyd's.

She sailed from Prince Edward Island on December 18, 1870 and made Lundy Island light by January 2. The following day the weather became very thick but when Morte Head was sighted dead ahead at noon, one mile off, the ship was tacked to the NE, the wind at the time being ESE.

At 2.30pm land was again seen dead ahead one mile distant, and the ship was tacked to the southward, the lead and line indicating she had 10.5 fathoms of water beneath the keel. Two further casts of the lead gave 13 fathoms when suddenly she struck, bumped heavily, and sea commenced to make a clean breach over her.

So great was the force of the waves, that she quickly broke into two amidships and her crew were compelled to take to the boats.

At the Court of Inquiry held at Liverpool, it was considered that the Master had failed to use the lead sufficiently when standing towards the dangerous sands on the Welsh coast.

He also neglected to make any due allowance for the set and strength of the tide, whereby he became confined inside the Nash Sands.

The court found the Master in default, and ordered his certificate suspended for three months.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bach Choir to perform

CARDIFF Bach Choir will perform the Magnificats by John Rutter and JS Bach on Saturday, November 28 at 7.30pm at All Saints' Church, Penarth. This will be the choir's first concert under the direction of their new conductor, Luke Spencer. Tickets £12, available on the door.

First aid and festivities

BARRY Milk Mates will hold their Nearly New and Christmas craft sale this Saturday, November 28, at Barry Comprehensive School, from 2pm – 4pm. A host of stalls will be there, including Polly's Patch, Forever Living and the baby sling swing library of Bridgend.

St John's Ambulance will offer paediatric first aid displays, just in time for the hazards of Christmas! So come in out of the cold, grab a Starbucks coffee and a mince pie, have your face painted and browse for your Christmas bargains, or visit Santa in his grotto. All profit made goes toward provision of the Barry Milk Mates service to all the Vale's breastfeeding mums and their children.

News from St Cyres Comprehensive

Charity cake sale

Congratulations to year-13 student, Natalie Emms, who organised a school cake sale to raise funds for a breast cancer charity.

After gift aid, Natalie and her fellow students raised £483.21. Special thanks to Mrs Walker and Bev for making the cakes.

LHC Senedd visit

MR ODLUM recently took a group of budding scientists from the St Cyres sixth form to the Senedd to see a life size replica of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) tunnel.

The science and technology facilities council exhibition allowed students to experience first-hand the sense of being inside one of the most famous places in science, and to have the opportunity to speak directly to the scientists involved with the world's largest scientific experiment.

The students enjoyed the visit immensely. They had a quiz where they looked around the exhibits learning about particle physics and the particle accelerator itself, then a few short talks on how it works, what it is made of and safety inside the tunnel.

Tourism trip

YEAR-10 tourism students have recently returned from a very successful and informative fieldtrip to Cardiff Bay.

Students carried out a range of tasks, including a mystery shopper activity in the Wales Millennium Centre and completed questionnaires designed by themselves earlier in the week by speaking to members of the public.

A tour of both the WMC and Techniquest showed students the ideas behind the customer service training these excellent centres have to offer.

The impeccable attitude and behaviour of the pupils was commended by staff at the two centres.

Battlefields lesson

A GROUP of 47 pupils and teachers recently made the long journey to Belgium to improve their knowledge and understanding of the First World War, to aid the pupils in their GCSE history controlled assessments.

They visited many cemeteries and memorials to give them an idea of just how many soldiers fought and died for King and country.

They also participated in a project to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War One which will be unveiled in 2018. In addition to this, they were also able to visit the Flanders Field Museum which taught them how the people of Ypres rebuilt their lives and homes after the catastrophes of World War One.

Furthermore, they were given the opportunity to visit the famous Menin Gate and witness the emotional event of the Last Post ceremony.

Overall, the trip was eye opening and moving and allowed the pupils to get more of an insight into the effects World War One had on both soldiers and those on the Homefront.

by Hannah Lewis and Kate Brown (year-10)

World War One app launch

THE National Library of Wales launched the Wales at War Project at St Cyres School, Penarth earlier this month.

Year-10 history students at St Cyres school were thrilled to be involved in the launch of such a major new digital resource. Students used the Wales at War programme to research and input information about men and women who died in the First World War.

Several students were able to add their own relatives to the Wales at War site. Huw Lewis, the Education Minister, spoke to students about their research during the afternoon.

Cinderella

ST CYRES School's annual production will be Ben Croker's *Cinderella*: instead of performing a classic west end production, the school has opted to perform its first pantomime since moving to the new school building, with its amazing auditorium.

Staff and students have worked extremely hard to produce, direct, publicise and market the production in such a short space of time. A lot of responsibility is shared amongst several students, who work closely alongside members of staff as part of their Performing Arts and Musical Technology courses.

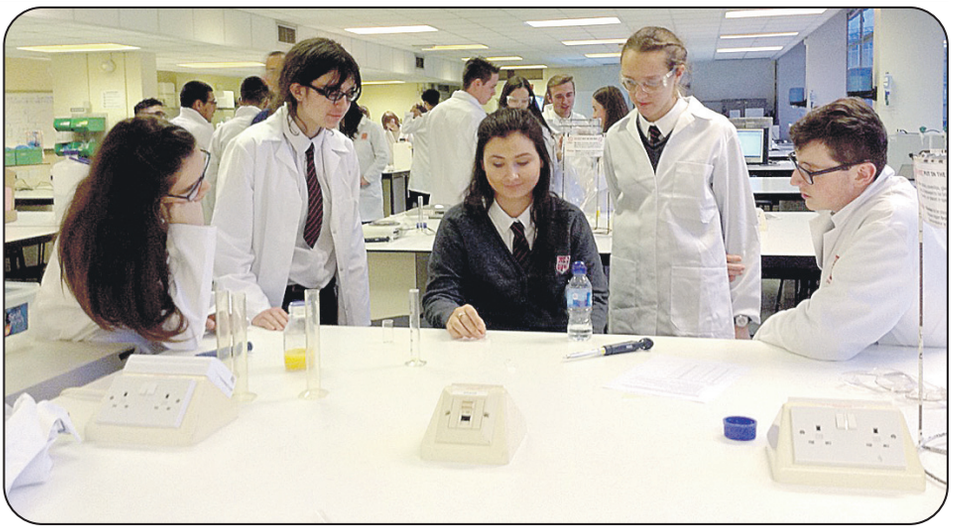
Cinderella, (played by Sydney Richards) struggles in her day-to-day life to satisfy the high expectations of her wicked step mother (Lauren Jagger) and step sisters (Phoebe Stacy and Jade Guy).

Cinderella's fortunes change, however, when she meets her fairy godmother (Rebekah West). Prince Charming (Lewis Gardner) is struggling to find the love of his life and disguises himself as his man servant Dandini (Ellis Hopkins) in order to discover how he is really perceived by his public.

Along the way, there are many entertaining moments, whether it is with Buttons (Davey Sheppard) or the comedy double act of Snitch and Snatch (Harri Herniman and Daniel Blackmore).

Throughout the performance, audience participation is required and encouraged by the cast who are extremely excited to see large crowds of adults, teenagers and children be entertained through acting, singing and dancing.

This performance promises to entertain and wow its audiences with magical effects, entertaining musical numbers and outstanding individual performances. Tickets are now on sale at St Cyres School. Performance dates are December 2, 3 and 4 at 7pm.



Chemistry trip

A GROUP of year-12 biology and chemistry students from St Cyres recently attended a series of lectures and workshops at the University of Cardiff.

The students gained hands-on experience in activities involving the search for novel antibiotics, finding out how biochemical pathways are used by organisms to produce molecules, and how these can be disrupted using drugs. They also discovered how chemical reactions can be used to assay biological molecules to allow doctors to diagnose diseases like cancer.

The course was jointly organised by the departments of biosciences and chemistry, and inspired the students to consider using what they have learnt in their A Level classes to develop drugs or processes that could be used in the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

Barrivale bridge news round-up

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for November 17.

This was the first week of the Barrivale Team Championship with the concluding week to be held on November 24 - 1st Jane Brook, Denis Mottram, Celia Thomas & Huw Thomas 58 IMPS; 2nd Kay Dyer, Noelle Bond, Peter Millar & Mick Green 49 IMPS; 3rd Irene Thomas, Jenny Vaughan, Mike Close & Mike Best 48 IMPS.

The winners of the men's pairs event, run earlier this year, are Peter Millar and Mike Close (pictured).

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required. If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or 01446 735592 call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

DR

Barry and District men's skittle league

DIVISION 1:

49'ers.(C.Tipton 27) 278, Colcot Boys (K.Thomas, B.Sulivan 29) 283; Barry Park'B' (P.Clarke 30) 289, Bunker Boys (A.Jeynes 32) 285; Bunker Boys (L.Evans 29) 270, Sea View (J.Stokes 31) 285; Geest (S.Galsworthy 29) 286, Cavaliers (A.Rowles 33) 274; Mighty Dockers (I.Millar 29) 296, The Hairy Lemons (J.Bowman 29) 264; Sea View(D.Britton 29) 298, Ex-Servicemen (H.Hellyar 34) 306.

DIVISION 2:

Buffs Exiles (B.Potter 28) 260, Witchill Poachers (S.Rogers 28) 254; Cannon Balls (D.Pike 30) 302, Exiles (J.Miles 30) 275; 'H' Hells (B.Crockford 29) 286, Willie Wombles (P.Taylor 33) 284; Pasrk Lads (K.Jones, G.Jones, D.Lambert 24) 258, The Royalists (G.Davies 28) 250; Park Rangers (R.Webb 26) 238, Posties (M.Churchill 27) 243.

DIVISION 3:

British Rail (D.Slugg 32) 286, West End Fliers (M.James 28) 248; Castle Boys (G.Brooks 30) 271, Billy Whizz (S.Webbley 28) 259; C.U.D.(B.Rees 24) 261, Billy Bluebirds (A.James 273; The Alternatives (S.Davies 30) 257, Glenbrook Rangers (K.Samson 27) 265; West End Fliers (B.Morgan 28) 272, KP Monkeynuts (J.Bennett, M.Alaoui 24) 215.

HR

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Enjoy **cosy log fires** and **real ales.**

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Baked Yorkshire Ham
Roast of the Day
Deep Fried Brie
Beer battered Fish & Chips
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All served with vegetables or salad & chips or boiled potatoes

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includes unlimited tea or coffee.
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STARTER
Soup of the day
Garlic mushrooms
MAIN
Roast Glamorgan Turkey
Pan Fried Hake
Vegetarian Option
Chunky Steak Pie

All served with seasonal vegetables. Mince pie & coffee.

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Christmas Lights Switch-On in Penarth

PENARTH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

MAY I take this opportunity to remind your readers that Penarth's Christmas tree festival takes place at St Augustine's Church on the weekend of December 5-6.

The festival will be open between 11am and 5pm on Saturday, December 5 and 12 noon to 5pm on Sunday, December 6.

The admission charge is £3 for adults, £2.50 for concessions and children are free. All of the proceeds are donated to charity. This year, the charities being supported by the festival are 2Wish Upon A Star, the Anita Goulden Trust, and Thrive, Cardiff.

ANDREW DAVISON,
Chairman, Penarth Christmas Tree Festival.

Lighting up Penarth

AS joint winner of the best-dressed Christmas window in Penarth last year, Cathy Evans, owner of Bojangles gift shop and Ginger's Fashions, will be switching on the Christmas lights in Penarth town centre on Sunday, November 29.

As well as lighting up the town, there will be plenty of entertainment throughout the day and many of the shops will be open, with special offers to encourage local Christmas shopping.

Ginger's of Penarth will be offering 25 per cent off all fashions for that day. Bojangles will be giving shoppers an opportunity to get their Christmas gifts and presents in their fabulous Christmas Shop, and will be opening on Sundays throughout December to give shoppers an extra couple of shopping days.

Cathy said: "I am delighted to support Penarth and as a local independent business owner, it is so important to encourage people to shop locally and to support small businesses. We hope everyone will visit Penarth on November 29 and join in with the festivities.

"I am especially looking forward to switching on the town lights and was so proud of Bojangles' window last year, as it was our first year of trading."

Sparkling gold opening to a magical season!

ESTABLISHED in 2003, with branches in Penarth and Radyr, ener-chi pride themselves on creating wonderful handmade window displays: "Plenty of cutting sticking and glitter," said Judy Mancuso, owner ener-chi organics ltd.

"I am delighted to be switching on the Christmas lights in Penarth town to commemorate ener-chi's joint festive window display win in 2014.

"We are extremely proud, and decorations are well under way for this unveiling; this year's theme is sparkling gold, with a freshly-painted gold shop front to complement the approaching magical season."

Visit ener-chi for stress free shopping this Christmas with friendly advisors on hand to help you choose, stocking fillers from £2, to indulgent beauty hampers brimming with designer brands such as Espa, Dr Hauschka and L'Occitane; or float into a relaxing massage or beauty treatment while your chosen gifts are expertly wrapped.

Take advantage of ener-chi's free seasonal gift wrapping service; if spoilt for choice, ener-chi gift vouchers make the perfect gift.

Ginger's of Penarth
We are Lighting Up Penarth!
25% off
All Fashions for one day only
on Sunday 29th November between 10am-4pm
Ginger's of Penarth, 9-11 Washington Buildings, Stanwell Road, Penarth CF64 2AD. Tel 02920709773

caudalie divine body oil £8
Marvelous Mum
Gifts Galore
£30
l'occitane shea butter gift set
sparkling Christmas gift shop
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Tempting Treats
From £12.50
Gift vouchers available
espa gift collection
Christmas
Late night shopping evening, Penarth
17th December 5pm-8pm
ener-chi
www.ener-chi.co.uk
Penarth - 02920 707356
Radyr - 02920 214012

What's on, and where?

Concert for Ty Hafan

THIS Saturday, November 28, Cowbridge and Pontypridd Choral Societies will be singing Handel's *Messiah* at 7pm in Llantrisant Leisure Centre to support of Ty Hafan.

The soloists will be Iona Jones (soprano), Kate Woolveridge (mezzo soprano), Ben Smith (tenor) and Gareth Rhys Davies (baritone) and the Rhondda Symphony Orchestra will be conducted by Geoff Ryan.

Tickets are available from WG Davies, 38 High Street, Cowbridge, the leisure centre, any choral society members, or on the door.

New members are always welcome to join Cowbridge Choral Society, and experience is not essential. Rehearsals take place in the United Free Church, Westgate Street (opposite the Police Station) every Thursday at 7.30pm.

Tea in Barry

THE sales team at the Morrisons store on Heol Ceiniog in Barry invite local pensioners to join them for a mince pie and tea or coffee next week.

Between 2.30pm and 5pm on Tuesday, December 1, local pensioners are invited to stop by the store's café where free refreshments will be served.

Andrew Stevens, the store's general manager said: "We're very grateful to our loyal customers and this is just a small token of our appreciation ahead of Christmas."

Cylch Meithrin fair

THERE will be a winter fair as a fundraiser for Cylch Meithrin Llanilltud Fawr, and it will take place on December 5 at the Llantonian Hall, Llantwit Major between 11am and 1pm.

Various stalls, children's crafts, refreshments and Sarah Rosser photography will be there. To book a stall call Debra on 07912 575070.

Barry Mayor's Christmas crafts

THE MAYOR of Barry, Coun Emma Pritchard, will hold a Christmas craft fair on Wednesday, December 16, between 10am and 2pm at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry, CF62 8DN. There will be various sales stalls, plus tea, coffee and cakes – come along and purchase those last minute Christmas gifts!

For more information call 01446 704921 or e-mail *juliehurd@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk*

Proceeds of the fair go to the charities the Mayor has chosen to support during her term of office, which are Tŷ Hapus and MNDA (Motor Neurone Disease) Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan.

National Trust in the Vale

THE Vale of Glamorgan National Trust Association of Volunteers are holding their Christmas lunch on Wednesday, December 16 at the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge.

Anyone interested in attending should e-mail Andrew Maclehose before November 30 on *andrewmaclehose@hotmail.com*

GEM READERS' LETTERS EXTRA

'Financial sector was not the sole cause of world economic crash'

– says reader

I MUST confess that I have little time for the First Minister, Carwyn Jones AM and that said, his diatribe in last week's GEM plumbed new depths.

At best, he was being disingenuous in all of his claims. Let's look at each one in turn.

Mr Jones claims that the Chancellor is proposing to "do away with tax credits", but he should know better. The proposal is to change the level of tax credits.

He then tells us that families will be at risk of losing an average of £1,300, yet the Institute of Fiscal Studies put the figure at £459.

Who is right? The First Minister tells us that some will be £3,000 worse off, representing a cut of 10 per cent in income to our lowest paid.

The reduction of £3,000 presumably relates to someone earning £30k pa, which is £5,000 more than the average wage in Wales. Lowest paid!

Of course, the changes will impact upon people and that should not be underestimated, but we deserve better than dodgy statistics.

The First Minister then tells us that it was the financial sector that "crashed the world economy".

That sector certainly played a role – but in truth, the issues were far broader than reckless lending – or should that be reckless borrowing? Was anyone forced to borrow?

In the UK, Gordon Brown steadfastly refused to regulate the financial sector. In reality, levels of Government borrowing in say, Spain, Greece and yes, the UK, had become unsustainable, added to which economies around the world were grinding to a halt, all of which contributed to the worldwide recession.

Mr Jones then tells us that businesses cannot afford to pay the living wage. Which businesses? Perhaps those in the financial sector or the major retailers, or maybe those that avoid paying Corporation Tax.

If he is really concerned about local businesses, perhaps he could take action on business rates.

Having shed crocodile tears and forgetting to mention the recent 11 per cent pay rise for AMs, he shares his concern that those who lose tax credits will have less to spend.

True, so what about taking some positive action, such as freezing council tax, as they have in England and Scotland?

John A Turner,
Rhoose.

'Paris atrocity a rare event'

THE mass hysteria being whipped up in favour of committing British forces to bombing Isis and civilians in Syria is out of all proportion to the threat we face.

Intelligent voices are asking the question, exactly what do we expect to achieve?

In the last 14 years, we have spent billions, killed many thousands and suffered the loss of life of our own troops and it made absolutely no difference.

We need to accept that Britain is no longer a main military player and should only involve itself when absolutely necessary. What have the carpet bombing and invasions of the last 14 years achieved, other than increasing the conflict?

We seem to want a knee-jerk reaction to the terrible loss of 130 innocent citizens in Paris, yet these atrocities are a rare event in Europe. We have previously totally ignored massive loss of innocent life elsewhere and not seen a need to act provocatively.

Please learn the lessons of the past and think very carefully. It is easy to commit others to do our dirty work, are we individually so threatened? Do we really understand the complexities of the Middle East, or the motives of ISIS, who until recently were our allies!

Politicians need to think less about their popularity and more about a long term plan for peace. They have failed us for too many years in these conflicts.

Remember the Paris and London bombings were undertaken by our own citizens, not trained Middle East terrorists.

Steve Reed,
Rhoose.

Friends organise cheque presentation to Ty Elis counselling in Porthcawl

Jane James, High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan, passing the cheque to Mrs Edwina (Ted) White MBE, who received it on behalf of Ty Elis.
ALL PICTURES BY KEITH E MORGAN

Jane James with Mrs Ted White and Dr David Parry with the award.

Members of the 41 Club and Barclays Bank with Jane James, with the Mayor and Mayoress of Porthcawl, Couns David and Gaynor Newton-Williams.

Jane James with Ted White and Susan Marlow.

ON November 17, at a social evening arranged by the Friends of Tŷ Elis counselling service, Mrs Jayne James, High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan, received on behalf of Tŷ Elis a cheque for £464 from Dr Michael Spencer-Harty, chairman of the Porthcawl 41 Club.

The club had raised the money at the carnival tombola stall Mr Keith Price had organised, for this amount to be matched by Barclays Bank. Mrs James added a donation of £100.

Dr David Parry, MBE, president of Tŷ Elis, thanked Mrs James, the 41 Club and Barclays Bank for their support for this important mental health service.

Keith Price congratulated the 41 Club and Mrs Jean Downes for their hard work, and also all the town's organisations and businesses that had contributed.

Tŷ Elis is a local registered charity that since 1996 has offered a free confidential counselling service to the whole of the Bridgend borough. It attracts clients and volunteers from across south Wales.

The dedicated volunteer staff work with clients in urgent need of counselling, but who are daunted by the NHS waiting list and the cost of private counselling.

Tŷ Elis receives approximately 50 new clients each month, almost all from GPs, psychiatrists and mental health teams.

Until now, Tŷ Elis has financed the therapy by additional hard work in raising donations, and every penny is spent locally and for the benefit of the whole community.

The charity is the Bridgend Business Forum 'Community Enterprise' of the Year'. Seeking to become, at least partly, self-sustaining, Tŷ Elis has launched a qualifying diploma course in counselling and workshops covering mental health wellbeing in the work place for employers.

A further service provided is therapy for occupational health schemes, but unfortunately a borough contract has been withdrawn for local authority organisational reasons.

It is early days for the enterprise which, ironically, also needs financial support in the growing stage.

Mrs Edwina White, MBE, echoed Dr Parry's thanks for the donations and to everyone who attended, including Mr Kerry Marlow, Porthcawl carnival chairman, and the favourite paparazzo, Keith; thanks also to the Friends who donated a delicious supper.

The raffle of a cushion made by Boo Phillips raised over £50. Mr Peter Barnes then conducted a prize draw of the Tŷ Elis 100 Club.

by KAY FOYLE, Clerk to Ty Elis Trustees

The Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun David Newton-Williams with Dr David Parry, the president of Ty Elis.

BRIDGEND SPORTS UNDER-10s ARE BACK IN RUGBY ACTION...

In a marked contrast with the previous two weeks, when games were called off due to the wet weather, Bridgend Sports under-10s travelled to the sunny shores of Aberavon to play a game against a club steeped in history that can be traced as far back as 1887, the Aberavon Green Stars.

With a backdrop of blue skies and sunshine, slightly tempered by the cold, the young players were keen to get back into action. Their enthusiasm for action was evident early on, as the Sports won the toss and got into their stride quickly.Playing with confidence, they moved the ball at every opportunity and when play broke down at the ruck, they were adept at protecting and securing possession to keep the pressure up on the Green Stars.

The hard work put in by coaches, Justin Davies, Craig Balmer and Matter Preddy was certainly paying dividends.

It was not long before the Sports registered their first score; following several phases of play, Mackenzie Dent broke in midfield, was tackled but made the ball available for Jodie Keane to take play forward and when she was tackled short, a good clear out at the ruck by Hari Williams saw the ball secured for Mackenzie Dent to feed Mason Balmer, who charged over for the try.

Aberavon Green Stars restarted and ran into a tackle from Ieuan Pilliner which was followed up with support from his team mates who forced the Green Stars to touch.

The Sports moved the ball quickly but a series of errors from both teams saw possession frequently change hands before Joel Rogers used his pace to gain ground for the Sports.

With Dewi Worrall on hand to set up the ruck, Mackenzie Dent played scrum half at the break down to keep up the attack.

Callum Lewis then switched the direction of play for supporting player Thomas Coles to take play to the line and then return the ball for Callum Lewis to score.

Aberavon Green Stars pressured from the restart, taking play deep into the Sports half but lost the ball forward.

From the scrum, a stray tactical call saw the Sports try to make ground with a kick which was gathered by Green Star's Cameron Wagstaff, who left the Sports trailing in his wake as he raced down the flank to score.

The Sports hit back immediately when Mackenzie Dent, who was making a barnstorming return following a lay off through injury, broke through the home side's defence before being tackled. The Sports secured quick possession for Hari Williams to spot space on the blind side which he exploited to great effect to score near the corner and take the Sports into a 1-3 half-time lead.

In the second half, Aberavon Green Stars rallied, but initially were held out through some good defence from the Sports with Ben King, Callum Lewis, Cian John, Iestyn John, Dylan Morgan and Hari Williams putting in solid work.

They eventually secured possession through the pressure that enabled Joel Rogers and Cian John to make breaks but then lost both the ball and player Ben King at the breakdown due to injury.

The change hampered the Sports but rejuvenated the Green Stars and it was not long before the Green Stars worked the ball wide for Craig Noonan to score.

The away team were not to be outdone however. Joel Rogers almost scored but was inches short with an initial touch down which led to a scrum, but the Blue and White's opponents could not gain any ground due to pressure imposed on them, and when the Sports secured the loose ball they worked Callum Lewis into space for him to cut inside to score to make the score 2-4.

The Green Stars had the last word however, when a loose pass from the away team saw Trystan Lewis intercept and race away to score to make the final score 3-4 to Bridgend Sports. It was a highly entertaining game with credit due to both sides.

Squad: Bailey Llewellyn Hopkins, Ben King, Callum Lewis, Cian John, Dewi Worall, Dylan Morgan, Hari Williams, Iestyn John, Ieuan Pilliner, Jodie Keane, Joel Rogers, Mackenzie Dent, Mason Balmer, Morgan Edwards, Thomas Coles.

New players are always welcome at Bridgend Sports under-10s, please visit our website *http://bridgendsportsclub.rfc.wales* and use the 'contact us' link.

SP

Lottery win for players!

The senior players' squad were lottery winners at Pencoed RFC, and are pictured above with supporters' club chairman Graham Walters and member Gwyn Morgan, presenting the cheque.

*Picture by **Julie Hancock**, http://juliehancock.org.*

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NEW

LYDSTEP ROAD, BARRY
- SEMI DETACHED
- LIVING ROOM
- FITTED KITCHEN
- TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- REPLACEMENT BATHROOM
- GARAGE/DRIVEWAY
- ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
- PARTIAL SEA VIEWS FROM REAR
- ER=C

£124,950

NEW

OBAN STREET, BARRY
- FORECOURTED TRADITIONAL
- WELL PRESENTED MID TERRACED
- THROUGH LIVING ROOM
- FITTED KITCHEN
- THREE BATHROOMS & FAMILY BATHROOM
- BASEMENT ROOM USED AS GYM
- VIEWING ESSENTIAL

£124,950

NEW

GLAMORGAN ST, BARRY
- MID TERRACED TRADITIONAL
- EXTENDED TO GROUND FLOOR
- THROUGH LIVING/DINING ROOM
- SITTING ROOM
- FITTED KITCHEN
- GROUND FLOOR FAMILY BATHROOM
- THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- NO CHAIN
- EPC=D

£127,500

NEW

ST. ANDREWS ROAD, BARRY
- SEMI DETACHED
- LIVING ROOM
- KITCHEN/DINER
- DRIVEWAY
- AMPLE SPACE TO EXTEND(SUBJECT TO USUAL PLANNING)
- ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
- VIEWING ADVISED
- ER=D

£119,950

NEW

CLIVE ROAD, BARRY
- MID TERRACED TRADITIONAL
- THROUGH LIVING ROOM
- CONTEMPORARY FITTED KITCHEN
- INTEGRATED APPLIANCES
- TWO BEDROOMS
- HOBBY/ATTIC AREA WITH VELUX WINDOWS
- UPVC DG - GCH VIA COMBI
- BRICK BUILT STORAGE SHED
- NO CHAIN EPC =E
- FABULOUS WATER VIEWS

£124,950

NEW

HARBOUR ROAD, BARRY
- TRADITIONAL MID TERRACED DWELLING
- TWO LIVING ROOMS
- SPACIOUS DINER/KITCHEN
- FOUR BEDROOMS WITH ENSUITE
- FAR REACHING VIEWS ACROSS BRISTOL CHANNEL
- LOW MAINTENANCE REAR GARDEN
- WELL PRESENTED THROUGHOUT
- VIEWING ESSENTIAL
- EPC = E

£224,950

NEW PRICE

LAKIN DRIVE, BARRY
- MODERN SEMI DETACHED
- TWO BEDROOMS
- UPVC D/G GCH
- LIVING ROOM
- KITCHEN/BREAKFAST ROOM
- OPEN PLAN GARDEN/DRIVEWAY
- WELL PRESENTED
- NO CHAIN
- ER=D

£128,500

NEW PRICE

BROAD STREET, BARRY
- END OF TERRACED
- TRADITIONAL DWELLING
- TWO REC. ROOMS
- FITTED KITCHEN
- 2ND FLOOR: 2 BEDROOMS
- WELL PRESENTED
- ER=E

£174,950

TYNEWYDD ROAD, BARRY
- TRADITIONAL SEMI DETACHED
- ORIGINAL FEATURES THROUGHOUT
- LIVING ROOM
- DINING ROOM OPENING TO KITCHEN
- SITTING ROOM
- FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- SPACOUS FAMILY BATHROOM
- SEA VIEWS FROM THE REAR
- LOW MAINTENANCE GARDEN
- ER=E

£239,950

BELL STREET, BARRY
- MID TERRACED TRADITIONAL
- THROUGH LIVING ROOM
- FITTED KITCHEN
- GROUND FLOOR BATHROOM
- 3 BEDROOMS (3RD ACCESSIBLE FROM BED 2)
- ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
- LANE ACCESS
- NO CHAIN
- ER = D

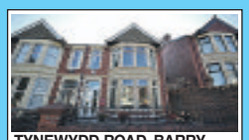
£111,950

LLEWELYN STREET, BARRY
- THREE BEDROOMS
- END TERRACED TRADITIONAL
- THROUGH LIVING/DINING
- ENCLOSED COURTYARD REAR
- WELL PRESENTED THROUGHOUT
- VIEWING RECOMMENDED
- ER=D

£104,950

LEE ROAD, BARRY
- WELL PRESENTED
- THROUGH LIVING ROOM
- THREE BATHROOMS
- MAY 2015
- COMBINATION BOILER
- MODERN FAMILY BATHROOM
- ENCLOSED LOW MAINTENANCE GARDEN
- UTILITY/CLOAKROOM
- VIEWING RECOMMENDED
- ER=D

£104,950



TYNEWYDD ROAD, BARRY
- TRADITIONAL SEMI DETACHED
- LIVING ROOM
- DINING ROOM, SITTING ROOM
- W.C. CLOAKROOM
- LUXURY BATHROOM WITH ROLL TOP BATH
- SEA VIEWS ACROSS BRISTOL CHANNEL
- THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- ATTIC/HOBBY ROOM
- VERY WELL PRESENTED
- ER=F

£239,950

GUTHRIE STREET, BARRY
- STUNNING PRESENTATION
- MID TERRACED TRADITIONAL
- WALLED FORECOURTED AREA
- TWO SEPARATE REC ROOMS
- MODERN FITTED KITCHEN
- TWO BEDROOMS
- FIRST FLOOR BATHROOM
- GARAGE - LANE ACCESS
- REFURBISHED THROUGHOUT
- ER = D

£121,950

DAVID STREET, BARRY
- MID TERRACED TRADITIONAL
- THROUGH LIVING ROOM
- DOWNSTAIRS NATHROOM
- TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- WELL PRESENTED THROUGHOUT
- IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY
- VIEWING ESSENTIAL
- ER=D

£99,950

SSTC More Needed

HEOL SIRHWI, BARRY
- VERSATILE LIVING THROUGHOUT
- GRD FLOOR:WC, LIVING ROOM, DINING ROOM
- CONSERVATORY, BEDROOM, UTILITY ROOM
- INTEGRAL GARAGE
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
- EPC=C

£234,950

SSTC More Needed

ST LYTHANS RD, BARRY
- SEMI DETACHED
- BAY FRONTED
- 3 BEDROOMS
- 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
- LARGER THAN AVERAGE GARDEN
- NO CHAIN
- DRIVEWAY
- GARAGE
- ER=E

£204,950

SSTC More Needed

TREM Y DON, BARRY
- STUNNING SHOW HOME PRESENTED
- ORIGINAL FEATURES
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- CONSERVATORY
- 1ST FLOOR: FOUR BEDROOMS (ENSUITE)
- DINING ROOM, SHOWER ROOM
- 2ND FLOOR: FIFTH BEDROOM (ENSUITE)
- HOUSED HOT TUB/SAUNA
- DOUBLE GARAGE/DRIVEWAY
- EPC=E

£479,950

Some Testimonials From Happy Customers *-Check Out Nina's Facebook Page*

"Can't thank Nina, Kirsty and the team enough for all their amazing support, advice and patience whilst buying our first house. They made the whole process so easy, stress free, and secured our dream house! We still can't believe it and it wouldn't have happened without Nina Estate Agents! Can't recommend enough!! Thank you!"

"I would like to thank Nina and her team for all her help in getting our her first home they have been very patient with us all as not only did she get her first home but also help me and my husband down size which took weeks of hard work finding us something as nice as we already had. You are all amazing and thank you again xxx"

"Have dealt with Nina and her staff in both sales and rentals. I have purchased, sold and let many properties through multiple estate agents and have always found Nina's first class. Nina's estate agents know all their properties inside out and know the local market to a tee. If you want professional and honest advice from a non chain estate agents for Barry it's got to be Nina's."

"Our agent was Pauline and she was fantastic! The whole team at Nina's are a credit to the profession. We have settled very nicely into our new home and would recommend them to anyone looking to buy or sell. Thank you."

"Used Nina and her team for sales and letting and I cannot thank them enough for all their hard work and professionalism!"

"5* service from start to finish, all staff are very friendly and always there to help when needed without delay. I sold my house with Nina and also bought one of their advertised properties, we had plenty of viewings, the advertising was almost instant from the moment we decided to sell and the friendliness from all of the staff was perfect! The best estate agents in the area without a doubt and I'd have no hesitation in using their services again next time!"

Eight goal thriller sees Athletic share the points

ON a cold November afternoon the Athletic first team hosted a Dinas team who had only three months earlier put seven past them!

The home team started the slower and found themselves two goals down after only 15 minutes. That seemed to finally wake the Athletic up though and good work from Kyle Caton and Jake Oaten up top found Jay Hammill with the ball at his feet and he made no mistake in placing the ball past the keeper to half the deficit.

Only a couple of minutes later a penalty was awarded to the home side when a cross from Oaten was handled by the Dinas defender. Nathan Gratton made no mistake in slotting the penalty away to make it 2-2.

Dinas almost took the lead again on 40 minutes when the striker played the offside trap expertly, but was denied by a wonderful reaction save from Huw Davies in the Athletic goal to keep the scoreline level.

Dinas were awarded a penalty on 45 minutes when again a corner wasn't dealt with and was eventually handled by the Athletic defender. The Dinas striker made no mistake from the penalty spot, putting the away side up 3-2 at the break.

The second half began and with only 20 seconds on the clock Kyle Caton raced away down the left, and produced some lovely skill with a fantastic cut back to Marc Williams to again level the game up!

With Caton and Oaten in fine form up front the home side could now taste victory and were denied on numerous occasions by the Dinas keeper. Unbelievably, the away side once again took the lead through another penalty!

Changes were made with TeeJay Caton and Lee Stradling coming on to find another equaliser and with the home side now having four strikers on the pitch it was the ever persistent Jake Oaten who raced on to a ball in the ball to place the ball past the keeper to make it 4-4 and complete the scoring.

The home side were unlucky not to find a winner in the final few minutes of the game but can take positives from the 'never-say-die' attitude that saw them come back three times in the game when previously this wouldn't have been the case.

The club would like to thank referee Paul Bright for a fair game and wish Dinas Athletic all the best for the rest of the season.

DIVISION 2 - MASTER MARINER 1, BARRY ATHLETIC 5

In classic winter footballing conditions Athletic maintained their good form with a convincing win against The Mariner.

Manager Jeff Howells shuffled his pack with numerous players missing through injury and work commitments.

It took a while for Athletic to get the breakthrough but it came from a father and son partnership with Ady Gratton whipping in a trademark cross onto the head of Billy Gratton to leave the keeper stranded with a glancing header.

It was another precise header at the back post from the energetic Danny Morgan that put the Athletic 2-0 up and in control after the half-hour.

The second half saw Athletic continue to dominate the game and push for more goals. It was Danny Morgan that grabbed his second with a fantastic finish from out wide that made it 3-0 and a stunning 25 yard drive from Izaac Farrag put the game out of reach for the Mariner.

Billy Gratton then nipped in with a poacher's finish to get his second of the game and make it 5-0.

Atheltic's defence of keeper Sam Rees-Davies, Jamie Deguara, Eddie Roe, Farrag and Ady Gratton were left disappointed when the ever-running Jordan Yeoman grabbed a late consolation goal for Mariner. Veteran keeper Dave Stringer was outstanding in the Mariner goal, thwarting the Athletic on numerous occasions.

Thanks to Nick Silva, who refereed a game played in a great spirit in difficult conditions.

AG

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Barry's 'local derby' in first round of Cup

BARRY Chess Club entered two teams into the East Glamorgan Chess Association Knock Out Cup, and for the second year running, both were drawn to meet each other in the first round.

This gave a welcome opportunity for the club's wider membership to play an extra game before the club's higher graded players pick up the baton in the next round.

The two teams were evenly matched, with match captain Martin Ricketts deliberately selecting players to create opportunity for all, and it did not disappoint.

First blood went to Merlin Davies on board three who made the most of Ray Denyer's mistake in giving away a rook.

This was soon followed by an excellent win for David Jones on board two, who defeated in-form Jason Grice. Jason was a bishop up before losing an exchange of pieces, and his concentration!

There was a right old tussle on board four where in a tight game, Huw Davies defeated John Rees who fought valiantly, but it was all over when Huw queened his pawn.

On top board, in a tactical but very even match, Chris Green and John Stephenson settled for a draw.

The result, 2.5–1.5, means that the Barry B team now progress to the next round where they will meet either Pontypridd or North Cardiff.

Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards.

MR

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UNDER OFFER
LLEWELLYN STREET, BARRY
- 2 bed mid terrace property in popular area of Barry
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RHODFA'R GWAGENNI, BARRY
- A very well presented three storey 4 bedroom mid link town house
- Gas central heating & double glazed throughout
- Allocated parking and garage to the rear
- Low maintenance garden to the rear
- Sold freehold with no onward chain
£185,000

LEE ROAD, BARRY
- A 3 bedroom mid terrace property in good decorative order
- Gas central heating and double glazed
- Low maintenance garden to the rear
- Close to local amenities, schools & transport links in & out of Barry.
- Sold leasehold with approx 874 years remaining
£94,950

"DOWNTOWN" AMERICAN CAFE & RESTAURANT, BARRY
- 50 seater licensed cafe & restaurant turnkey business for sale
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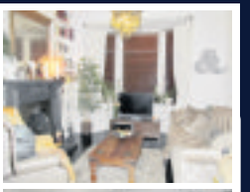
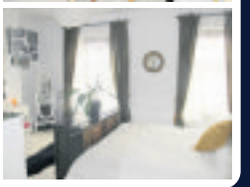
- Good sized premises set over two floors
- A3 usage
- Current rent £500 pcm with no rates payable
£15,000

LYDSTEP ROAD, BARRY
- An three bedroom semi detached property with single garage & driveway
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Enclosed gardens to front & rear
- Potential to buy fully/part furnished if desired
- Offered freehold with no onward chain
£122,000

MOREL STREET, BARRY
- 2 bedroom mid terrace property within walking distance to the town centre
- Gas central heating & double glazing
- Close to transport links in & out of Barry
- Low maintenance garden to the rear
- Sold freehold with no onward chain
£104,950

NEW
OBAN STREET, BARRY
- A well presented 2 bedroom Victorian bay fronted mid terrace property
- Gas central heating & double glazing
- Forecourt garden to the front with a raised garden to the rear
- Would make an ideal first purchase/family home
- Offered freehold
£112,000

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2 bed ground floor flat. DG. Parking. Unfurnished.
£550PCM

Catalina House, Barry
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£450PCM

Ivor Street, Barry
Spacious 2 bed ground floor flat. GCH. DG. Unfurnished. £500PCM

High Street, Barry
2 bed 1st floor maisonette. GCH. DG. Unfurnished.
£475PCM

Courtenay Road, Barry (GFF)
3 bed 1st & 2nd floor maisonette. GCH. DG. Unfurnished. £475PCM

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Hospitals are honoured for work in blood clot prevention

Andrea Croft and Mary Jones with Helen Morrison and Professor Roopen Arya.

THE dedication and passion of staff to prevent life-threatening blood clots has helped two hospitals unite to become the first ever Welsh sites to win a prestigious honour.

Princess of Wales, Bridgend and Neath Port Talbot hospitals have been named as exemplar centres of excellence for VTE – venous thromboembolism, or blood clot – risk prevention.

According to Welsh Government figures, in 2010 around 900 deaths in Wales were due to, or associated with, a hospital-acquired thromboembolism (HAT) – and as many as 70 per cent of these could have been avoided, if preventative measures had been in place.

These figures spurred on anticoagulation advanced nurse practitioner Andrea Croft, who is based at the Bridgend hospital. She has been working with fellow nurses, doctors, pharmacists and other clinical colleagues to champion their quest for exemplar status.

Andrea presented the hospitals' strategy to combat clots and to record and demonstrate their progress to Professor Roopen Arya and Helen Morrison, of the National VTE Prevention Programme.

They were so impressed by the risk prevention work going on at Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot, and also at Maesteg Hospital, that they had no hesitation in awarding the status.

Andrea said: "I am absolutely thrilled that we have earned this recognition. We can already see the benefits of offering sustainable robust services and the plans we have for the future will further reinforce what we are doing."

ABMU Health Board now has a policy in place which means all hospital patients are assessed on admission to see if they are at risk of developing a clot, those that are identified are offered appropriate treatment and all admitted patients are re-assessed daily or as their condition changes.

The assessment of patients is carried out by doctors but Andrea said the nursing staff play a key role in making sure that VTE remains a top priority. They have also established tools to audit treatment and encourage compliance.

"We feel that the system we have now is the best we could have. This has been my passion for a long time, since I worked in anticoagulation clinic many years ago – but I couldn't have done this without everyone else," she said.

Andrea – assisted by specialist thromboprophylaxis nurse Mary Jones – was a finalist in the Patient Safety category at this year's ABMU Chairman's Awards for her work on developing a nurse-led re-assessment tool to reduce the risk of HAT.

Tory AM hits out at 'blue badge' charges

WELSH Conservative regional AM Dr Altaf Hussain has hit out at proposals by Bridgend County Borough Council to begin charging 'blue badge' holders for parking as an "attack on the disabled".

The council is inviting members of the public to share their views on the proposal to charge the same price to all members of the public in council-run pay and display car parks in – including blue badge holders. As part of the proposal, blue badge holders will also be provided with an additional hour free of charge on top of the time that they pay for, as well as an increase in allocated blue-badge bays.

Dr Hussain said: "Coming on the back of much discussion as to how we can improve our town centre in Bridgend, charging people with disabilities for the use of council-run car parks sends completely the wrong signal.

"The move seems to target a group that includes some of the most vulnerable in society, and will be viewed by many as a pretty cynical attack on the disabled.

"Coupled with the closure of a number of public toilet facilities, it all adds up to an impression that Bridgend Town Centre is not disabled-friendly. McArthur Glen, by contrast, has free parking for all and excellent toilet facilities.

"I don't think that offering an extra hour on top will make any significant difference, especially when people have already been asked to pay more."

The deadline for the council to receive responses from the public under the consultation is December 18.

Public get early 'taster' of the plan for the Jennings building

Bridgend AM Carwyn Jones speaking at the event inside the Jennings building.

THE Jennings building on Porthcawl seafront was opened up for a day last week so that local groups, funding partners, property owners and elected members could hear more about proposals for the former harbourside warehouse.

They could also asee the work that has been completed on the nearby Pilot's Lookout Tower and Customs House, thanks to the Porthcawl Townscape Heritage Initiative.

Planning and Listed Building Consent applications have been submitted by Penarth-based ABA Holdings for the conversion of the grade II listed Jennings building into three modern restaurants/eateries/cafés , which will also include first floor work/live units combining office space with loft bedroom areas.

The historic listed buildings, the Pilot's Lookout Tower and Customs House, have both been restored to their former glory using traditional materials and methods and Bridgend County Borough Council hopes to make an announcement about both buildings' future use early in the New Year.

Coun Charles Smith, BCBC's cabinet member for regeneration and economic development, said: "This event marked the official launch of the Porthcawl Townscape Heritage Initiative, and also provided a rare chance to look inside the Jennings building and visualise how this historic venue could be transformed over the next 18 months or so.

"The Townscape Heritage Initiative scheme is making a total of £1.3 million available until 2019 to renovate and refurbish buildings within the historic heart of Porthcawl, and work has already been completed on the likes of the Customs House and Pilot's Tower.

"With this launch, Bridgend county borough is officially one of just two areas in the whole of the UK to have successfully established five different THI schemes, so there is much to feel proud of.

"The restoration of these buildings forms an important part of our ongoing regeneration plans for Porthcawl so that it can develop and flourish as a first-class 21st century coastal resort that retains the character which has made it such a popular place to visit over so many years."

The planning application for the Jennings building is due to be considered before the end of the year, and the full application can be viewed via the 'planning search pages' at www.bridgend.gov.uk.

Work on the Pilot's Lookout Tower has been completed, thanks to the Townscape Heritage Initiative.

An announcement on the future use of the Customs House is anticipated in the New Year.

High Sheriff's talk to WI

THIS month's speaker at Bont Faen WI was Mr David Jenkins, who recently concluded his year as a High Sheriff.

He told us about the role and historic duties of his job; many of these were to do with the High Court and the Court of Appeal (Cardiff is the only city outside London to have an Appeal Court).

He and his wife would have visiting Judges to dinner. During his year, he attended royal visits and military and naval occasions.

He brought his outfit for us to see, which included a velvet jacket and pantaloons, patent shoes and tights! It was a very busy time for him but one that he thoroughly enjoyed.

November was a full month for Bont Faen WI. The social meeting was a trip to the Bay for ten pin bowling, followed by a meal. Bont Faen was represented at the Remembrance service and the Rotary quiz.

We had a good turnout for the craft evening, when we finished off the decorations for the Christmas tree in the church. A large number attended the John Lewis fashion show organised by Penllyn WI.

The month will end with a trip to Bath for the Christmas markets on November 28. Next month is our Christmas party on December 19.

MP

Porthcawl RFC come unstuck in poor conditions

ON a dreadfully wet and windy afternoon, Porthcawl came unstuck at Birchgrove, going down 18-10, in what, considering the abominable weather, was an entertaining match.

Both sides decided from the off that the easier option of 'up-the-jumper' stuff was consigned to the bin as they both tried their best to play with ball in hand.

Porthcawl's early dominance was rewarded when fly-half Nathan Townley slotted a smart penalty despite the wind for a deserved 3-0 lead.

With the Seaweeds pack providing good ball through Nick Nutman at the lineout and with Connor Rees getting his pass away smartly in the wind, the Porthcawl backs were always seeking a way through.

It was the home side, however, that snatched the next score with a converted try at 7-3 as they profited from some great driving forward play and more than one player seemingly holding the ball as they touched down. With half-time approaching, a score for Porthcawl could see them turn around ahead at the break.

Superb line-out possession off the top, allowed the visiting backs to get up a head of steam and when the ball moved left, the final pass saw wing Callum Walters scoot in at the corner for a great try.

This was bettered only by Townley's brilliant conversion off the touchline into the wind and at 7-10, the match was there for the taking by either side.

The weather continued to have significant role to play as at times the rain hammered down but Birchgrove came up with the next score as they drove deep into Porthcawl's 22.

Following a scrum 10 metres out, the home back row drove forward and took advantage to finish off the driving maul with a push-over try, unconverted, for 12-10.

With flanker James Burge-Davies doing his utmost for the Seaweeds with his non-stop display in driving into the heart of the home defence, there was always hope that Porthcawl might pull off a fine win.

However, as legs and bodies tired in defence, the home side took advantage of two soft penalties in quick succession, to kick two goals and put the match two scores out of reach at 18-10 going in to injury time.

Porthcawl strove hard to get back on terms by moving the ball at at every remaining opportunity but to no avail as Birchgove held firm.

Porthcawl are still handily-placed in third spot in the league and will look forward to the visit of Banwen to South Road on November 28, with the home side seeking the double.

PF

The youth travelled to Llandaf North, winning 5-60. The under-7s won 26-1 against Rumney, while the under-8s defeated the same opposition 11-10; the under-8s also defeated Maesteg Celtic 15-2 on October 25 and beat the Valley Ravens 15-12 on November 1.

UNDER-9S - RUMNEY 15, PORTHCAWL 5

We travelled to Rumney with a bare 10 players.

Rumney ran in try after try with strong running and good pop passing. There were some highlights in defence with Dewi relentlessly chasing down attackers, making two or three try-saving tackles, taking players into touch and picking up the top tackler award.

Oscar, Lex, Sam, Scott and Ben didn't stop all day with a good tackle count. It was nice seeing Theo up there with tackles and back to his scintillating best with ball in hand, running with determination, and he was rewarded with a try and top try scorer's award.

Dylan and Piers ran the straight lines well, with Piers' all-round game helping him pick up the individual effort award and Dylan deservedly picking up the making a difference award with good solid angled runs and two tries.

Ryan also got on the scoresheet with his normal weaving runs, crossing for a great try and with quick feet could have created many more.

This week the team are at home to CRICC.

RH

UNDER-10S - RUMNEY 15, PORTHCAWL 15

There wasn't much to pick between these teams in the first half.

Rumney scored first, followed quickly from a try from Will Thomas-Parker from a 15 metre penalty into the corner. Rumney then retook the lead several minutes later with a breakaway try from their own half, Matthew Davidson taking good ball from Brandon Howells' direct running and measured offload to claim our second try.

The second half was much the same, only both teams upped the intensity of their tackling and defensive work. Several breakaway runs to glory for Rumney were thwarted by some great late cover tackles from Luis Mullins, Max Williams, Osian Perkins and Will Thomas-Parker.

Our rucking seemed much more physical in the second half with more players wanting to win the ball, which gave us a platform to move the ball wide to our runners.

After a few attempts for us to add more pressure on our opponents, Evan Carless grasped the nettle at this point to carry the ball into the heart of their tacklers and just kept going to score a very good individual try scored off the back of some gritty work from our forwards, giving us a slender lead for the first time.

Matthew Davidson's 40 metre run saw him tackled 10 metres from the line and then Rumney scored in the corner to level the game at 3-3 and both teams took the applause from all the spectators in what was a very entertaining encounter.

JP

Acion from Porthcawl's loss against Birchgrove. PICTURE BY TRACEY WILLIAMS.

Pencoed slip to home loss against the Quins

THREE converted first half tries put the Maesteg Harlequins on the road to victory in this Division 1 West Central match at the Recreation Ground against Pencoed RFC.

The opening 10 minutes was punctuated with errors from both sides before Adam Williams opened the scoring with a penalty goal for Pencoed. The Quins' response was immediate, turning over possession at the restart before centre Lee Bevan was worked across, Lee Bradley adding the conversion.

The visitors soon got a second, driving play from their pack in the home 22 sucking in defenders before full back Rhodri Thomas crossed in the corner, outside half Bradley hitting a fine conversion to lead 3-14.

The Quins then got their third try, hard working flanker Lewis Tutt the beneficiary from close range, Bradley converting.

Pencoed almost conceded a fourth try within a minute, flanker Aaron Halse doing exceptionally well to get back to save.

A 70 metre counter attack gave the home faithful some hope, but with the visitors' defence beaten the inside pass went to ground, and the interval arrived with the visitors good value for their 3-21 lead.

Early in the second half Pencoed full back Tom Cross put in a well judged diagonal kick into the visitors' 22 and sustained pressure saw Williams pick out Ricky Somers with a short pass and the second row did well to break the final tackle to score.

Pencoed returned to the attack from the restart with prop forward Christian Powell breaking clear before his kick and chase took play into the visitors' 22.

Pencoed were now starting to put their game together and following a Paul Mcfarlane turnover, sustained pressure at the maul saw Somers get his second try, and at 13-21 the home side were back in the match.

Pencoed then frustratingly lost their own lineout deep in the red zone and their chances of at least gaining a losing bonus point were slipping away.

With 10 minutes remaining the home side emptied their bench for a final effort, but despite centre Lloyd Bargery shrugging off several tacklers in a 40 metre run to go close, it was the visitors who had the final say.

A last play lineout catch and drive saw Tutt driven over for his second try and the much sought after try bonus point, Bradley adding his fourth conversion for Maesteg Harlequins to run out deserved 13-28 winners against a home side still searching for their best form.

For Pencoed Mcfarlane and Somers put their hands up for home man of the match; however on this occasion the tireless all round efforts of back row forward Aaron Halse edged matters in the supporters vote.

On Saturday Pencoed travel to fourth placed Seven Sisters for a 2.30pm kick off.

ABOVE: David Young competes for an up-and-under, while RIGHT: Man of the match Aaron Halse fights through the Quins defence. ALL PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK

Megan Griffiths kicks at goal for Phoenix under-18s.

Pencoed Phoenix girls under-15s and under-18s teams enjoyed mixed fortunes against their Cardiff Harlequins counterparts at the Woodlands ground.

The newly formed under-15 side were, as could be expected, second best on the day to their far more developed opponents.

The Phoenix youngsters gave their best on the day against the odds, and with 17 girls already registered at under-15 level with the benefit of further coaching and match experience, they will no doubt enjoy far easier days in the future.

Phoenix under-18s, short of several key players on the day, rose to the challenge to edge out their Quins opponents by 20 points to 17 in a match curtailed by injury.

Phoenix tries came from Seren Hart and Megan Griffiths, both breathtaking 75 metre efforts, with Megan Whittaker showing good opportunism to snap up a loose ball to score, and Amber Carmody with a determined 30 metre effort, fending off a number of defenders to get the touchdown.

Both girls teams welcome any prospective players to supplement their squad numbers. **TR**

Bridgend bridge club *LATEST NEWS*

VERY well done to Julian Pottage and Simon Richards, who won a hotly contested club pairs championship event held over two weeks in November.

The winners are to be greatly congratulated on their selection to play for Wales in the next Camrose Home International Series.

Beginners' classes at Bridgend Bridge Club are now in full swing, eight weekly two hour lessons having been completed by the 17 students on the course.

They are following the Welsh Bridge Union introductory course this term, and next year will continue with weekly lessons, which will enable them to join the club's gentle duplicate sessions on a Thursday afternoon, and, ultimately, the evening sessions on Wednesdays and Fridays at Nolton Hall.

Bridge is an intellectually challenging game and there is a lot for the beginner to take on board, but the group has persevered with great enthusiasm so that, once they have grasped the basics and developed their skills, they will have the tools to enjoy a social game of bridge at home with friends, a friendly evening of bridge at a bridge club, bridge holidays and cruises if they are so inclined, or, for the really adventurous, bridge competitions and congresses at local, regional, national and even international level.

In short, bridge is a game which can be enjoyed at whichever level you choose to play it, but it is endlessly fascinating and, even if you have been playing for decades, you are still learning and still coming across new situations to discuss in the inevitable post-mortems which follow a hand of bridge.

As bridge is a social and a partnership game, one of the key things stressed in the classes is the importance of cultivating a positive relationship with your partner.

It is inevitable that players will make mistakes, as the game is so complex, so an understanding and sympathetic approach to partner, as well as, of course, towards your opponents, is essential if things are to proceed smoothly.

We learn a lot from our mistakes, of course, which is why most of the more experienced players at the club are still learning each time they play, which is what makes bridge such an addictive game for the real enthusiast.

The structure of the lessons is an introductory talk on a specific topic, followed by supervised play of hands designed to reinforce learning on that particular issue.

The club will run another beginners' group from next September if there is a demand - to register an interest please call Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968.

The results for recent events are:

Wednesday, November 18: 1st Julian Pottage and Simon Richards, 2nd David Bowen and David Crompton, 3rd Kevin Maddox and John Beard. Thursday, November 19: 1st Emer Disley and Debbie Lea, 2nd Dilys Bowser and V Irene Thomas, 3rd Glyn Williams and Stuart Davies. Winners on handicap - Dilys Bowser and V Irene Thomas. Friday, November 20: 1st Norma and David Newman, 2nd Vida Halford and Glyn Williams, 3rd Steve Burgoyne and Bill Turner. Winners on handicap - Dilys Bowser and Colin Lewis.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hall. Play is scheduled to commence at 7pm so it helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there is a gentle duplicate session. Master points are now awarded but it remains a relaxed occasion where players enjoy their bridge.

TG

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Birth Notices

JUST FOR YOU

***Ella Rhian** - born November 16, 2015*

I'm sorry I'm unable to say what you mean to me,
But I suffer from Alzheimer's which stole my memory;
Of your parents and of you – I am pleased and so proud,
And if I could, I know I would shout it out so loud,
For I am your great grandmother and I love you.

I'd look forward to holding you and taking you for a walk,
I'd teach you lots of simple things, how to read – how to talk.
I'd love you when you're happy and also when you're sad,
I'd be there always for you – through times good and bad,
For I am your great grandmother and I love you.

I'd guide you through your early years, teach you right from wrong,
I'd nurse you when you're ill and comfort you with a song.
There are so many things I would want to share with you,
Easter egg hunt, Christmas and birthdays to mention but a few.
For I am your great grandmother and I love you.

So I leave you this poem, written by great grand-dad, but for me,
It reflects my love and pleasure for the new leaf on our tree.
Enjoy your life my darling and always try your best,
Be fair in all the things you do and you'll be truly blessed.
For I am your great grandmother and I love you.

Congratulations to Lauren John & Lewis Williams
on the birth of a beautiful baby girl
ELLA RHIAN
on 16th November
Congratulations and love from all the family xxx

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Family Notices

LLOYD
Fay (Violet Fay Susannah)

Peacefully at UHW on November 16. Beloved wife of the late Ted, much loved mother of Stuart and Rosalind, mother-in-law of Evan and dear grandmother of Jason, Sara and Troy. Resident until 1976 of Fairwater, Cardiff and then of Alwen Drive, Barry. Former Cardiff City Councillor and Barry Town Councillor and tireless member of the Autistic Society for many years.

Will be sadly missed by all.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Barry until the funeral service at All Saints Church, Barry on Friday, November 27 at 11am, followed by internment at Barry Cemetery at noon.

CAMPBELL
Isabella *(known as Isobel)*

Passed away peacefully on November 23, at Milsom House, St Athan, aged 71 years. Isobel was a much loved mother to Ian, Elaine and Margaret, and mother-in-law to Jayne, Nigel and Chris. She was adored by her grandchildren Toby, Nia, Ellie, Rhys and Eira.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son until the funeral ceremony on Tuesday, December 1 in St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major at 10.45am, followed by a committal at Coychurch Crematorium at 12 noon.

Family flowers only by request, donations if desired payable to Velindre Cancer Care at www.velindrefundraising.com or cheques c/o the funeral home.

D'ARCY
Sheila Mary *(née McKeon)*
of Ogmore by Sea, Vale of Glamorgan

Peacefully on 17th November, aged 93, with her daughters Ann and Cecilia and son Tim at her side. Much loved mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, great grandmother and sister. Widow of Squadron Leader Bernard D'Arcy, DFC, RAF (Retired).

Requiem Mass on Tuesday, 1st December, 12 noon at St Mary's Church, Ewenny Road, Bridgend, followed by a short committal service at Coychurch Crematorium at 1.45pm. No flowers please, but donations, if desired, to Emmaus South Wales, telephone 01656 332756, ext. 201- www.emmaus.org.uk/south wales.

All other enquiries to Condon Funeral Service, Glanafan Court 50 Margam Road, Port Talbot, SA13 2BN, telephone 01639 883688.

BROWN
Lynne (Brownie)

Suddenly on November 14 at the University Hospital of Wales – Lynne, well known for her time as a club stewardess within Barry. Much loved mum of Martin, David and Christine. An adored nanna of Natasha, Ellie, Ethan, Jay, Joshua, Lauren, Seren, Cairan and Charlie.

She will be greatly missed by all who loved and knew her.

Lynne is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at their Windsor Road Chapel (opposite Mount Sorrel Hotel) on Tuesday, December 1 at 1.45pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. Floral tributes may be sent to the Funeral Home, alternatively donations may be made at the service or via Lynne's tribute page: www.valefuneralservice.co.uk to support Velindre Hospital in her memory.

Black attire optional.

LEADBITTER
Anthony (Tony)

Died peacefully on November 24, after a short illness in Llandough Hopsital. Much loved husband of Patricia Leadbitter and loving father of two children, Fiona and Simon.

With thanks to the staff of Llandough Hospital for their dedicated, kind, and caring support.

Details of the funeral service to be announced.

JAMES
Terry

Peacefully on November 19 at The University Hospital of Wales, after a long illness. Terry, devoted husband of Sue, much loved dad of Leigh, Debbie & Martin, cherished grampy of Kurtis & Courtney, special father-in-law to Emma, Andrew & Claire.

Terry will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at the private funeral home of The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until the service at Coychurch Crematorium on Thursday, December 3 at 2.15pm. Floral tributes may be sent to the funeral home or donations may be made at the service or via Terry's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk in aid of Marie Curie.

All enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis on 01446 407962.

GILLHAM
Reg

Peacefully at UHW, The Heath, Cardiff on November 18, Reg of Barry. Devoted husband of Doris, loving father of Steven and father-in-law to Debbie. Beloved brother of Joan and adored uncle to his many nephews and nieces in the USA. Reg will be greatly missed by his many friends and former colleagues, including those from IMI Santon, Newport; Barry Athletic Bowls Club; Paget Rooms & Rhoose Tea Dancing Club.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until his funeral on Tuesday, December 1. Service in the chapel at 1pm, afterwards cremation at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry at 2pm.

No flowers by request, if desired, donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral service in aid of Kidney Research and Guide Dogs for the Blind.

SEE MORE FAMILY NOTICES ON PAGE 48

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BURT
William Henry (MBE)

Bill, beloved husband of the late Mavis, formerly of Haulfryn, Tondu, passed away suddenly on Tuesday, November 17 at Bryn-Y-Cae Residential Home. Loving father of Adrian and Angela, much loved "Papa" of Nicola, Nigel, Alistair and Andrew, devoted "Great Papa", father-in-law to Beth and the late Bob.

Resting at Rosemount Funeral Home. Funeral service on Monday, November 30 in Coychurch Crematorium at 2.15pm. Family flowers only.

Bill's family would like to invite you all to join them at the Masons Arms, Bryncethin following the service for light refreshments where donations, may be given in lieu of flowers to the Stroke Association.

All further enquires to Rosemount Funeral Home, 19 Coychurch Road, Bridgend, CF31 3AP. Tel: 01656 653156.

DAVIES
John Evan (Kelsy)

Passed away suddenly on November 16, John of Llantwit Major.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the funeral service on Wednesday, December 2 at 1.15pm in Coychurch Crematorium.

Will be sadly missed by his friends and cousins Geoff and Neil.

SHAW
Mari *(Jones)*

Passed away peacefully at Bath United Hospital after a courageous fight for life.

Mari was a deputy head girl at Cowbridge Comprehensive in 1985. Although fighting Hodgkins disease since she was 18 years old, she qualified as a Gynaecologist and later became a practising G.P. Mari was made a Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists. She has lived a full life, an example to us all, supported by husband Pete.

"There are two ways you can get through pain. You can let it destroy you or you can use it as fuel to drive you..."

Mari is sadly missed by Pete, Anne, Nick, Nigel & Mair Tel 01446 772843.

COLE
Michael George

At home with his family on November 18, Mick, aged 65 years. Beloved husband of Nikki, much loved dad of Sam, Jack and daughter-in-law Sam, loved tadgu to Erin and Matilda.

Mick will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son until the requiem mass at St Helens Roman Catholic Church on Tuesday, December 1 at 10.30am, followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if so desired, for Cancer Research UK c/o the funeral director.

TAYLOR
Ivor Charles

Peacefully at Llandough Hospital on November 15, Ivor aged 89 years. Much loved husband of the late Marjorie, much loved dad of Marilyn, Pauline and Nicholas. Loved father-in-law to Barri, Richard and Denise, also a cherished grandad and great grandad. Ivor will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son until the funeral service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium on Monday, November 30 at 10am. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if so desired, for Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o the funeral director.

PENNEY
Brian James

Unexpectedly passed away on Sunday, November 15. Beloved husband of Carol. Devoted father and stepfather to Mark, Victoria, Carolyn, Debby and Richard. Much loved Pappy to Megan, Daniel, Ben, Lily, Evan, Oscar and Ella.

Funeral service in St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major on Thursday, December 3 at 12 noon, followed by private interment at Monknash Churchyard. Family flowers only, but donations may be made to British Red Cross or Cancer Research UK Cymru c/o W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major (cheques only).

Local dance group wins £5,000 award

A DANCE charity passionate about helping young people in the Vale of Glamorgan to pursue their dreams of becoming performers, has won a £5,000 community award that will help set up a unique dance company.

Motion, Control, Dance (MCD) was set up by OneFamily customer and project leader, Emma Mallam.

A dance teacher herself, she works with young people and adults with disabilities, mental health issues, obesity problems, the older generation, ethnic groups as well as socially deprived members of the community, helping advance their education through the medium of dance.

The £5,000 OneFamily Foundation award funding will be used to set up an inclusive youth dance company for those living in the region and aged between 16 and 30 years old, both able and disabled members, all of whom are passionate about performing.

MCD will now be able to employ two professional freelance tutors with experience of working with both able and disabled young people, and to subsidise the hall hire costs for rehearsals, in preparation for various performances throughout the year.

"Everyone benefits," explained Emma. "The dance group will perform at a variety of local community events throughout the coming year. Participants will create dances that tackle issues that are relevant to them, which we hope will help them become inspirational leaders in the region.

"Their work will in turn provide entertainment and education for audience members, so that ultimately, the whole community will be enriched."

The OneFamily Foundation is a unique customer benefit fund, provided by mutual, OneFamily, which intends to make £5million available to its members over five years to make their lives and communities better.

James Hale, customer engagement manager at OneFamily said: "We are delighted to award £5,000 to MCD, which will allow the charity's grassroots programme to grow into a performance company for local people who wish to pursue a career in dance.

"It's wonderful to see a community come together to develop such an admirable project and we're only too pleased to be a part of it."

Emma added: "This money will allow our members to break down barriers and broaden their horizons, as they learn new skills working together to create performances for the benefit of the community.

"I'm so proud of everyone involved and I want to say a huge thank you to OneFamily and everyone who voted. We really appreciate everyone who supported us and helped to make winning this award possible."

'I will certainly use cycle path'

WITH reference to a letter in last week's GEM, how thoughtful of our transport planners to provide a safe and environmentally-friendly alternative for visitors arriving at Barry Island on a bicycle.

The new cycle path will encourage families and children to travel in a style that is in keeping with the sunshine and fresh air of their destination.

And contrary to the claims of your anonymous correspondent ('cyclists will not use the path'), I often cycle in Barry and will certainly use it.

Perhaps I could add a suggestion that cycles are officially permitted to travel up the hill opposite The Ship on a combined cycle/footpath.

The current footpath is wide enough to allow this (especially now that the overgrown bushes at the railway bridge have been cut back) and this route is often used unofficially.

This would complement the new cycle path on the lower part of Harbour Road and provide safer and more convenient access back to the town centre.

Simon Toner, Barry.

Pre-loved sale

A PRE-LOVED sale will be held at Evergreen Hall, Bridgend on Saturday, November 28.

Doors open 12.30pm. Clothes, shoes, handbags and designer bits & bobs!

Admission 50p to include tea and coffee. A percentage will go to the Stroke Association Bridgend.

Rowers celebrate success!

Some of the Supa Vets team with the trophy - from left: Kelvin Spear, Ian Mason, Arlene Mason, Tony Peters, Paul Fisher, Nicola Spear and Bella.

AT the recent Welsh Sea Rowing Association Dinner and Awards ceremony in Aberystwyth, Barry Yacht Club sea rowers were presented with a trophy for winning the men's Supa Vets South league.

Still in only the third year of rowing this is a tremendous achievement for the club.

Competing in the league involved travelling to most parts of the south west coast of Wales from Wiseman's Bridge to as far afield as Aberystwyth.

Great credit must go to all those who rowed and coxed in the Supa Vets boat and to all our supporters who travelled many hundreds of miles over the course of the season.

2015 has been a brilliant year for the sea rowing at Barry Yacht Club and we look forward with anticipation to the start of events in 2016.

Meanwhile, we continue to train on the water as often as the weather allows and carry on with our land based training.

If anyone would like to try out the fantastic sport of sea rowing then you can get in touch with us by email at rowingsection@barryyachtclub.co.uk, and if you'd like more information follow us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/BarryRowers.

PF

Paul Fisher, representing Barry, being presented with the trophy by David Thomson.

Rhoose Bowls Club celebrates end of season

RHOOSE Bowls Club celebrated the end of a successful season with their presentation evening at St Athan Golf Club.

Thirty three members attended and enjoyed a wonderful evening where the successful winners of the summer competitions were presented with their trophies and prize money.

Unfortunately the overall winner of the club singles competition and club champion, Mr Colin Ashdown, was unable to attend, but the following winners were there to receive their prizes, presented by club president Jo Hopkins:

Four bowl winner - Rita Craig; Two bowl winner - Sue Dance; ladies pairs winners - Rita Craig and Sue Dance; Mens' two bowl winner - Hugh Jupp; Mens pairs winners - Geoff Lages and Tony Lages.

All members are looking forward to next year and it is hoped that we will be able to welcome some new members who may be interested in the wonderful game of bowls.

Information will be printed in The GEM early next year. **RC**

Barry school's shopping evening

YSGOL Sant Baruc is holding a Christmas shopping evening on Wednesday, December 2, 6pm to 8pm in the school, in St Paul's Avenue, Barry.

There will be stalls selling items including wine, books, jewellery, Christmas decorations, gifts, and cakes.

GYMNASTS EXCEL...

IN a boys gymnastics event held in Birmingham recently, Harri Morgan of Llantwit Major came 16th in the nationals 14s age group.

Sammi Morgan (Llantwit Major) was part of the young under-12s (2004) team that won gold (Wales compete as a region), and the overall winner was Oscar Harper from Swansea; another team member was Rhys Griffiths from Ogmore Vale.

In the British championships in Bracknell, Mali Morgan (year 2006) came third overall as the Welsh team won silver, and has been invited to join the Great Britain national team training squad.

BM

BRYNHILL LADIES HOLD PRESENTATION EVENING

THE Brynhill Golf Club ladies' section recently held its presentation evening.

Awards went to the following:

Championship winner - Gemma Evans; golfer of the year - Andrea Page, who also won the foursomes knockout with Olwen Thomas; Diak championship - Julie Harkin; the Jenny Williams Plate was awarded to Helena Coombes for supporting the lady captain throughout the year.

The night was enjoyed by all the lady golfers, the cups being awarded in the early part of the evening. After the cups were filled and members danced to the disco until the early hours.

GOLF RESULTS

November 3, Turkey Trot - winner Andrea Page 18 points, runner-up Sue Holland 17 points.

FUTURE EVENTS

December 1, Christmas decorations by Hilary West, December 8, mince pie morning.

CH

Home loss for Penarth hockey team

ON an already relatively quiet weekend, Penarth Hockey Club was reduced to just one completed game as a member of the first XI's opposition suffered a serious injury, causing their match to be abandoned and leaving the seconds as the only side in GoCrea8 league action.

PENARTH A 1, LLANISHEN & CAERPHILLY 'A' 2

With only seven teams in the restructured De Cymru 2 division, Penarth's second XI will become very familiar with the opposition over the course of the season, with Llanishen & Caerphilly the first repeat opponent as the fixture list entered its second round of games.

Despite having despatched the Cardiff side 4-1 in the opening match of what became an unbeaten swing through part one of the campaign, Penarth were not taking anything for granted ahead of the second meeting, and their caution proved well-founded as Llanishen & Caerphilly turned up at Stanwell with a much-strengthened side.

Although able to field a strong line-up of their own, Penarth found themselves on the back foot in the opening period, calling on goalkeeper Adam Putt to keep them in the game with a couple of important saves.

Putt was helpless, however, when the visitors finally found a spare man in the 'D' and opened the scoring with a well-worked move.

Stung by falling behind for the first time this season, Penarth gradually took a greater share of possession, but were still vulnerable to Llanishen & Caerphilly breaks, and went further behind in an almost identical situation where a forward was left unattended on the penalty spot.

Penarth had opportunities to pull a goal back, but squandered a series of penalty corners before the break, ending the half 2-0 down and knowing they had a lot of work to do to maintain their unbeaten record in the second 35 minutes.

Bolstered by keeping the opposition at bay for the final part of the opening half, Penarth came out determined to chase the game, and enjoyed greater possession and pressure in the second period.

Again, however, composure eluded the home side around the visitors' D, with patient build-up through Mark Robinson and James Kidby going to waste.

At the other end, Penarth's defence of Matt Noble, Craig Llewellyn, Nathan Townsend and James Davies diffused Llanishen & Caerphilly's more sporadic attacks, giving their forwards the opportunity to reduce the deficit.

Although Chris McCarthy, Owen Hopkins and Dave Watkins all had chances to pull at least a goal back, it was the effervescent Tom Parkinson who finally gave the home side some hope, popping up in the D to force the ball home.

The goal, however, came too late in the day and, as Llanishen & Caerphilly closed ranks at the back, further chances proved few and far between for Penarth.

Defeat drops the Bears to second in the De Cymru 2 standings, but new leaders Swansea University only pulled a point ahead after drawing against lowly Whitchurch and Penarth still hold a game in hand over the students.

Victory for Llanishen & Caerphilly, however, ensures that the top three are now separated by just two points heading into the final few games before the Christmas break.

All three Penarth Hockey Club sides return to action this weekend, with the first and second XIs both on their travels, to face Bristol University and Whitchurch respectively.

The third XI, meanwhile, has replaced the league fixture lost to withdrawal of another of the Whitchurch sides by arranging a friendly with Abergavenny at Stanwell School.

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers regardless of age and ability.

Training takes place on Wednesdays at Stanwell School, with the juniors on the pitch between 6.15pm-7.15pm and the seniors between 7.15pm- 8.15pm.

Anyone interested in joining the club at senior or youth level can contact either player-coach Ben Croxall (b_croxall20@yahoo.co.uk) or club secretary Dave Stevens (d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk) for further information.

CL

Brynhill team meets the Barry mayor!

The Brynhill Mail on Sunday team are representing not only Brynhill Golf Club, but also Barry and Wales.

They are one of four teams out of 3,000 who have qualified for the finals in Spain, and the Lady Mayor, Emma Pritchard, invited them to afternoon tea in the Mayor's Parlour in recognition of their achievement.

The team were accompanied by the president, Keith Atkinson and the club captain Rhys Jones and press officer Jo Kirkpatrick.

JK

Ford

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Dinas Powys FC suffer defeat after lacklustre performance

THIS was top against bottom of Division 2 in this encounter between Undy Athletic and Dinas Powys FC - and it showed.

Having said that this was a below par performance from Dinas and they can certainly compete much better than this on their day and they know they must improve considerably if they are to escape the relegation zone in the 20 remaining league games.

Once again Dinas had their keeper James Curtin to thank for keeping the score down to five with a string of brave saves.

Dinas started okay with a ball down the line from Rhys Harlin to King Junior Mwezdo but he was disposessed before he could get into the Undy box.

For the first five minutes the visitors were closing Undy down well but the league leaders soon got their passing game going and Dinas were struggling to get any possession.

A free kick from Undy's Tom Hooper was headed wide by one of their strikers, and this was followed by an effort from distance by Dan Jarman which was well wide.

The hosts were pushing forward leaving themselves open to the quick break but Dinas just couldn't get possession of the ball long enough to mount many attacks.

Curtin was called into action early when he had to smother the ball with several Undy players closing in. Dinas skipper Ben Luck cleared a free kick by Jarman well and the visitors began to get into the game with a cross from Mason Ah-Mun winning a corner for Dinas, taken by Nicky Bruce but the Undy defence cleared the danger.

A cross from Undy's number 11 was driven just over Curtin's crossbar by Nathan Woods. Mwedzo was then fouled wide on the left with Bruce taking the kick which the Undy defence turned quickly into attack, and after a goalmouth mellee Psescernesk prodded the ball home for the opener on 30 minutes.

Curtin made another brave save when Gareth Williams was played in but the Dinas shot stopper dived on the ball as he was about to pull the trigger.

Just before half-time Dinas had a half chance when Adam Jones flicked the ball into Mwedzo's path and he got a shot on target which Undy keeper James Smallcombe gathered just under his crossbar.

The last couple of minutes saw Dinas doing better, a Bruce free kick fizzed just wide of the right upright and Adam Jones was played in on goal on the right but was off balance when he shot and his effort was wide.

With only one goal in it as the half-time whistle went, Dinas were still in the game.

The visitors changed their formation at the start of the second period to 3-5-2 to try and get more possession in midfield.

In the first minute a cross from the left by Undy hit the far post and rolled along the goal-line before James Marr cleared the danger.

The formation change did seem to work and Dinas began to get more possession, winning two early free kicks; the first taken by Bruce was just over the bar and the second from around 30 yards, taken by Mwedzo, was wide.

At the other end Curtin made two further reaction saves but, from an Undy corner 10 minutes into the half, Curtin could only parry a shot from Williams and the ball fell to the same player to stab it home for 2-0.

Dinas were then dealt a further blow with 20 minutes gone when Adam Jones had to leave the field with an ankle injury, Tomos Edwards replacing him, and he soon got into the action when Rhys Palmer linked up well with Keiron James to set up Edwards and he hit a superb shot which just skimmed Smallcombe's crossbar from 18 yards.

However, the pressure was short-lived and at the other end Psescernesk evaded two tackles to square the ball to Hooper for an easy tap-in at the far post for 3-0 with 20 minutes remaining.

Just two minutes later they made it 4-0 when Williams was played in through the middle to give Curtin no chance.

Dinas brought on their two remaining substitutes, with Luke Swaffield replacing Rhys Palmer and Mamadu Banguraso taking Scott Muir's place.

Keiron James then made one of his jinking runs into the Undy box but was driven out wide and the chance was gone.

With seven minutes left the hosts added their fifth goal, Hooper bursting through to net and at the final whistle Dinas could have no complaints after a somewhat lacklustre performance.

Squad: 1 James Curtin, 2 Rhys Harlin, 3 Mason Ah-Mun, 4 James Marr, 5 Ben Luck (c), 6 Keiron James, 7 Rhys Palmer, 8 Nicky Bruce, 9 Scott Muir, 10 King Junior Mwedzo, 11 Adam Jones, 12 Mamadu Banguraso, 14 Luke Swaffield, 15 Tomos Edwards.

This Saturday, November 28, Dinas travel to play Tata Steel, 2pm kick off, where manager Lee Saunders will be looking for a much improved performance.

PK

Six of the best for Rhoose under-13s

AFC Rhoose under-13s faced a tough test against Cowbridge Blacks but managed to gain a well-deserved 6-0 win.

In a well contested first half, Rhoose found chances difficult to come by as Rian Thomas' pace and trickery continued to trouble the Cowbridge defence.

Rhoose took the lead when Ewan Heywood used his lightning speed down the left and his drilled shot took a deflection into the back of the net.

In the second half, the game opened up and Cowbridge continued to press, which forced Geraint Booker into producing some excellent saves.

Rhoose held firm at the back with the centre back pairing of Spencer and Stephen Williams, together with holding midfielder Isaac Mcbride, winning every header and tackle.

Tomas Adams' energy and dribbling skills linked up perfectly with Kieran Daw's pace and power on the right and it was Daw who whipped the ball in for Ewan Haywood to finish at the back post.

Rhoose turned up the heat and Tori Brendan-Ireland played a terrific through ball to Connor Booker who tucked the ball into bottom corner to put Rhoose 3-0 up.

Rhoose's passing was excellent and Kaif Rizvi and Connor Booker played an excellent one-two for Booker to put Rhoose further ahead.

Daniel Bacon, Iestyn Wills and Ryan J came on for Rhoose and their energy and battling at the back prevented Cowbridge from attacking, and from this Rhoose broke away and another excellent cross from Kieran Daw found an unmarked Rhys J at the back post where he finished with a tremendous back-heel.

Rhoose finished the game off with Cole Clarke's superb run into the box and his layoff found Connor Booker who poked the ball home for his hat-trick, and Rhoose's sixth goal.

DC

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A thrilling encounter sees Dinas beaten by last-minute penalty kick

THE 'Villagers' of Dinas Powys lost away to unbeaten Porth Quins to a last minute penalty.

In a thrilling contest where the lead changed hands on 10 occasions, the 'Villagers' were very unlucky to lose to the final kick of the game, conceding a penalty after the referee had missed a knock-on earlier in the passage of play.

An injury ravaged Dinas side, missing five experienced first choice players, met the challenge of Porth head on, with the young players filling the boots of those missing players with great aplomb.

The first half saw the 'Villagers' take an early lead through a penalty by fly half Ben White, and the home side responded with the only try of the game following a rolling maul which was converted.

The 'Villagers' replied immediately as the home side conceded a penalty from the restart and after 10 minutes the home side led by 7-6.

After this initial burst of points there was to be no further scoring in the first half, as the young Dinas pack rose to the challenge and by the end of the half had gained the upper hand against their experienced opponents and were unlucky not to lead at half-time as a further penalty attempt by White struck the upright.

The visitors regained the lead within two minutes of the restart, and this was to be the pattern of the second half as the lead changed hand on eight occasions.

The magnificent front row of Caleb Robinson, Luke Dyer and Andrew O'Malia were destroying the opposition front row and the home team looked bemused as the baby-faced trio, with a combined age of only 64 years, took control of the contest.

Passionate defending by both sides meant no further tries but this was a quality contest between two determined teams.

Powerful bursts by flanker Corey Imperatto and centre Sonny Driscoll were stopped by desperate home defenders, as the Dinas side pounded the home tryline.

The visiting supporters thought victory had been assured as White converted his sixth penalty of the afternoon with only two minutes of play remaining; however the fates were against them as Porth gained victory with the final kick of the contest.

Coaches John Dunleavy and Luke Gibson will hope that this fine performance will provide the platform to build on for the remainder of the season.

The second XV, affectionately known as the Dingoes, were much depleted due to the demand for players from their ranks by the first team, and committee members Andy Vesey and Craig Driscoll were called into action against the Cardiff Quins.

The Dingoes ran out winners by 21-0 away from home, with club secretary Driscoll rolling back the years with a man of the match performance.

The 'Villagers' entertain Treherbert on Saturday, November 28, at the Common, for what is sure to be another competitive encounter.

HJ

Barry and District ladies skittle league results

LATEST results for week commencing November 9:

Division 1: SV Gals (Jo Richards 30) 296, Family Affair (J Davies 33) 273; Special Angels (L Brigham, P Grisdale 24) 230, Family and Friends (R Cummings 32) 262; Space Finders (K Jackson 35) 345, Castle Bandits (L Nash 35) 266; Coppers (D Nesbitt, G Wride, J Hartnell 31) 330; Cigar Ladies (A McCarthy 37) 334; Allstars (C Brewes 26) 250; Bakers Dozen (M Rockett 29) 274; Bobby's Girls (L Bryan, N Toogood 24) 218, Barry Stars (T Johnson 30) 248; Colcot Ladies (D Mansbridge 27) 228, Breakaways (J Watkins 25) 261.

Division 2: Cad Con Fillies (J Rogers 27) 246, Red Admiral (P Peters 24) 238; Castaways (K Billines 31) 283, After Eights (A Jackson 29) 272; Vixens (T Curnick 30) 241, Rhoose Starlights (K Bryan 27) 246; Merry Makers (C Hatcher, A Hawkins 25) 239, Little Davils (P Weston 29) 248; Rhoose Ravers (G Ballow 30) 226, Witchill Weebies (K Hill 28) 231; Witchill Widows (M Curry 30) 286, S V Lights (P Forrester, D Thomas 32) 312.

Division 3: Rugby Triers (K Brooke 21) 198, Dolly Mixtures (E Peckham 27) 236; Hill billies (G Moorcraft 36) 315, Roller Coasters (J Marriot 32) 320; Persuaders (F Organ 22) 182, Friends and Neighbours (J Davies 232) 187; Westenders (M Davies 24) 202, Fallen Angels (K McInery 27) 250; S V Ladies (C Griffiths 31) 285, La Belles (E Cordy 31) 291; Etcetera (C Stillman 26) 254, Twilights (C Thomas 28) 273; Airways Angels (A Crook 34) 265, Divas (M Pearson 25) 205.

Division 4: Guardian Angels (S Clarke 26) 171, Witches (R Pope, P Cookson 23) 206; Challengers (A Richards 26) 208, Optimists (J Holland 30) 278; Witchill Wanderers (C Morrissey 33) 279, Living On A Spare (J Harvey 31) 305; Rebels (L Saunders, C Carter 22) 214, Socialites (S marks, J Fumis 22) 218; Uptown Girls (J Marsh 24) 220, Liberals (G Shier 25) 160; Odd Bods (T Cerian, V Jackson, T Perry, G Lewis 27) 266, Hell Raisers (C Davies 27) 259; Aristocats (C Chatwell 25) 214, Nite Outers (J Davies 24) 199.

Week commencing November 2:

Division 4: Optimists (E Playle 29) 272, Guardian Angels (S Ashton 28) 243; Living On The Spare (M Pring 33) 304, Challengers (L Morgan, J Dimond 33) 312; Socialites (F Nolan, A Hicks 24) 246, Witchill Wanderers 221; Liberals (R Keene 25) 197, Rebels (S Oram 25) 235; Off The Rails (L Wiltshire 28) 214; Uptown Girls (A Hobbs 30) 246; Witches (P Cookson , J Caton, O Weighall 25) 256, Odd Bods (G Lewis 29) 235; Hell Raisers (M Nugent 24) 205, Aristocats (T Weston 26) 232.

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Two winners for Evan Williams

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

THERE were plenty of racegoers from the Vale at rainsoaked Chepstow Racecourse last Wednesday and with Evan Williams-trained horses winning both divisions of the opening Dribuild Novices' Hurdle, and Phillip Dando's and Dr Michael Armitage's *Rainbow Haze* the Dribuild Handicap Hurdle, they had plenty to celebrate.

Nansaroy, a five-year-old brown gelding, ridden by Paul Moloney and who was racing for the first time in 242 days, owned by Mr T Hywel Jones, jumped the last almost alongside *Never Equalled* and went on to score by one-and-a-quarter lengths to reward those punters who had taken even money about his chances.

The runner-up, *Never Equalled*, ridden by Bargoed's Jordan Williams, is owned by former leading Welsh point-to-point rider Isabel Tompsett, who is no stranger to racegoers in the Vale. Isabel was clearly delighted with the way her horse ran and when she does manage to win with this son of *Brian Boru,* the cheers will be loud and clear, that's for sure.

Evan's second winner of the day, *Maxanisi*, owned by the Vale's Mrs Janet Davies, was ridden by Adam Wedge who got the five-year-old home by a neck from the odds-on favourite *Champagne At Tara,* ridden by leading rider Richard Johnson. *Maxanisi* was having his first outing in 291 days but Williams, the Welsh Wizard, has a knack of getting the best out of his horses no matter how long they have been away from the racecourse.

Peterston-Super-Ely's Phillip and Kathryn Dando, who bred winning Welsh point-to-pointer *Rainbow Haze*, were quietly confident that their horse would give them a good run for their money and he certainly did, winning by 10 lengths from *Moon Trip* and Mark Grant.

Cowbridge's Byron Moorcroft, who set out to make all the running on the nine-year-old bay gelding, who is by *Rainbow Haze*, *Kristal Haze*, had to surrender the lead after making the early running but his charge ran on strongly in the closing stages of the race to score a handsome win.

Phillip said: "He's not the fastest of horses but he stays all day, and I knew he would be running on at the finish."

Byron commented: "I think I got there too soon, but he went well in the soft conditions."

ANOTHER WIN FOR EVAN!

Llancarfan's Evan Williams sent only one racehorse to Exeter on Sunday and it romped home at odds of 9-2.

The oddly named nine-year-old brown gelding called De Faoithesdream, ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney, made every post a winning one in the Higos Celebrating 25 Years Handicap Chase and won easing up by some 10 lengths from the fancied Marden Court.

Twenty four hours earlier his Court Minstrel, a winner of his previous two races, had finished runner-up to Rock On Ruby in the £51,000 Coral Hurdle at Ascot.

Mark pays a trip to the Vale

LIVERPOOL FC European Cup winner and Irish legend Mark Lawrenson was recently in the Vale, starring in a sports dinner held at the Vale Sports Arena in Penarth supporting PG10 Coaching.

Mark Lawrenson and Neville Southall. Photo by Julianne Allen.

Also welcomed at the Vale Sports Arena was PG10 ambassador and Wales legend Neville Southall, as well as a wonderful Stereophonics tribute act.

For tickets for further events, and for more information, please email info@pg10coaching.co.uk.

PG

Vale Girls under-14s reach cup final!

THE Vale Ladies & Girls Football Club had a day to remember at the weekend when their under-14 team qualified for the South Wales FA Cup Final with a 2-1 semi-final victory over Pilcs at Jenner Park Stadium.

This was always going to be a tightly contested encounter with both teams unbeaten this season going into the match.

Both squads also boast numerous players that represent the national and regional Wales squads which set the tone for an entertaining game on the new 3G surface installed recently at the stadium.

Vale started on the front foot dominating possession without forcing clear cut chances. Strikers Erin Prynne and Grace Horrell were a constant threat to the PILCS defence with their pace and power and it was from a Horrell cross that almost gave Vale the lead when Prynne glanced a header just wide of the far post.

Holly Jenkins, having a fine game on the left of midfield, put in numerous set plays to good effect but Vale failed to capitalise and almost paid the price as the visitors went inches away from taking the lead with their first threat on the Vale goal.

A fine cross from the left beat the Vale defence at the back post which found the Pilcs striker who looked odd on the score but a miraculous recovery from Vale captain Daisy Connolly saw the ball cleared off the line.

That was to be PILCS only threat of the first period as Vale continued to press for the opening goal and halfway through the first half they squandered a glorious opportunity.

The impressive Sian Rees picked up the ball from just outside the penalty area and beat two players before striking at goal but a tremendous save from the visiting goalkeeper frustrated the home side.

Rees also went close on the stroke of half-time but her dipping shot from 20 yards fired just over the bar.

The second half followed a similar pattern with Vale on top and pressing for the opening goal. Kate Spargo and Grace Corne battling hard in central midfield and the defensive unit of Rebecca Gentles, Chloe Moggridge, Daisy Connolly and Mae Atkins rarely troubled.

Vale finally got the breakthrough 12 minutes into the second half when some good build-up play saw the ball fall to Grace Horrell who calmly shrugged off a challenge before slotting the ball home past the goalkeeper.

With Vale now in the ascendancy Pilcs started to take more risks committing players forward but this left them susceptible to Vale pace in attack.

The visitors almost broke through down the left hand side on the counter attack but a fantastic recovery tackle from Anais Trinci halted their progress.

With PILCS rarely threatening the Vale goal it came as a shock when the equaliser arrived and it was a moment of real quality.

Lucy Attwood struck a free kick from 25 yards that looped over the vale defence and goalkeeper to land into the net at the far post with 10 minutes remaining.

With the match all square once more it was going to be a test of who had the belief to go on and win the game to avoid extra time and it was Vale who stood up to the challenge as they pressed PILCS back in search of a winner.

It duly came six minutes from time when Grace Corne broke up play in midfield and released Prynne down the right hand side and she cut infield beating the defender before placing the ball under the goalkeeper to put the hosts into a 2-1 lead.

Substitutes, Olivia Townsend and Sophie Hawkins entered play for the final moments of the game which also saw seven minutes of injury time played.

The Vale player's defender with maturity and resilience in the final minutes of the game and Prynne went close to adding a third Vale goal right at the end with a shot that went just wide of the mark.

A great battling display from both teams with a deserved win for Vale who will play Cardiff City Ladies in the final in early 2016.

LW

Welsh Grand National takes shape

THE 2015 running of the Coral Welsh Grand National looks set to be another exciting race with a strong field of entries.

72 horses have been entered for the race, including last year's winner Emperor's Choice, trained by Venetia Williams, as well as Alan King's recent Paddy Power Gold Cup Winner Annacotty.

Champion trainer Paul Nicholls leads the way with seven entries, including the last two runners-up Benvolio and Hawkes Point, while the 2013 winner Mountainous receives an entry from local trainer Kerry Lee.

Coral Welsh Grand National Day at Chepstow Racecourse on December 27 will see opera star Rebecca Evans and male voice choir Only Men Aloud sing the Welsh National Anthem and marks the end of a glittering year for Welsh sport.

Wales' biggest raceday will see Coral Welsh Grand National runners racing for a £120,000 prize fund, while the Coral Finale Juvenile Hurdle, one of only three Grade One juvenile hurdles in Britain, will be run for £50,000, an increase of £15,000.

Other entertainment on the day for an expected crowd of over 10,000 will include the 50-strong Bridgend Male Voice Choir in the parade ring while the meeting will be supporting two local charities, Ty Hapus and Noah's Ark Children's Hospital in Cardiff.

Full information about the day can be found here: http://www.chepstow-racecourse.co.uk/whats-on/fixture/coralwelshgrandnational2015/.

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Penybont under-18s cruise to a victory!

PENYBONT avoided a potential banana skin against bottom of the league Corntown with a comfortable 4-0 victory.

Penybont made a bright start to the game and it didn't take too long for the home side to register their first shot on goal through Rhys Mahoney who hit the ball onto the roof of the net.

Shortly after, in the sixth minute, Penybont opened the scoring in style through Joe Price, who scored a rocket of a goal after launching the ball into the back of the net from the middle of the penalty area.

Penybont's optimistic start was stopped in its tracks as Corntown started to grow into the game and were playing like a side that you wouldn't expect to find at the bottom of the table.

However, the Centurions did not capitalise on this period of play and were punished by Penybont on the 31st minute when Penybont doubled their lead.

Jac Lewis showed good diligence as he played a great ball to the right of the pitch which found Morgan Ley, who placed the ball to perfection to find the back of the net to give Penybont a 2-0 lead going into half-time.

The second half was once again a lacklustre half for both sides who could only show glimpses of their potential ability. Penybont were struggling to play with any flair which resulted in a fragmented second half display from the hosts.

Therefore it was no surprise that Penybont's third goal came courtesy of some individual magic through substitute Matthew Symons, who rifled the ball into the back of the net from outside the box.

Symons was involved in Penybont's fourth goal as well after playing a good one-two with Oliver Waagenes who scored from the second attempt.

Corntown had very few opportunities on goal throughout and rarely troubled Penybont goalkeeper Calum Williams, who had very little to do, which helped Penybont to a 4-0 victory.

Overall, Penybont got the job done and were always in control of the game without having to go through the gears.

TOM PROSSER

Kenfig Hill rugby round-up

THE Mules crashed to a 16–22 home defeat against Seven Sisters, the team one place ahead of them in Division One West Central, thanks to a late try.

The Mules dominated the opening exchanges with their dangerous back three looking threatening every time they had the ball.

The Seven Sisters defence held firm and the only scores gained were two penalties from Mules centre Lloyd Giles.

Gradually, the Seven Sisters pack gained the ascendancy and they scored 10 unanswered points before Giles kicked his third penalty to leave the half-time score 10-9 to Seven Sisters.

The Mules felt aggrieved in the first half at a couple of decisions close to the Sisters' try line where normally a yellow card would have been handed out, but were only punished by the award of penalties.

The second half continued to be a scrappy affair with too much whistle from the official and the Mules again felt frustrated by a try-saving high tackle three yards from the Seven Sisters line which resulted only in a penalty.

Seven then scored a fine try following a clean break by their scrum half to give them a 15-9 lead.

However the Mules continued to press and flanker Dan Jones crossed over for a try following a forward drive which Giles converted.

This made the score Kenfig Hill 16, Seven Sisters 15 which remained until the final 90 seconds.

For one of the few times in the game, Seven Sisters moved the ball wide and although there were some claims of crossing, they scored close to the posts with an easy conversion to leave the final score Kenfig Hill 16, Seven Sisters 22.

This wasn't a game to write home about with too much indiscipline from the Mules. Acceptance of decisions is part of the game and will cost the Mules more points as the season progresses unless it is nipped in the bud.

Positives could be found with a tireless performance from a young and experienced front three, which bodes well for the future.

The Mules will need to be fully focused this Saturday as they take on the league leaders away at Skewen.

KENFIG HILL SECONDS 29, LLANHARAN SECONDS 7

The Mules dominated this top of the table clash played at Meadow Street, North Cornelly, with a fine display of controlled rugby.

The Mules' match day squad was again dominated by forwards but they held the upper hand with a class pair of half backs in scrum half Matthew Tossell and outside half Nicky Giles.

The Mules started as if they meant business, scoring 17 points in the first quarter, crossing for three tries in the process.

The first try followed a lovely back line move from a set scrum which saw Michael Rawnson running in from 40 yards.

Next it was scrum half Tossell who chipped ahead and gathered the bounce to score under the sticks, which Giles duly converted.

The third try of the half was scored by flanker and man of the match Craig Williams, who pinched the ball at the breakdown to dart over in the corner.

Llanharan scored a converted try themselves to leave the half-time score Kenfig Hill 17, Llanharan 7.

The Mules pack continued to dominate in the second half and there were two further unanswered tries, the first for Nicky Giles, who was on hand to take a pop pass from his scrum half partner following a fine driving maul.

The final try was a second for flanker Craig Williams who was on hand to pick up a kick ahead from Giles to crash over from five metres.

The Mules' scrummage was a dominant factor throughout the match with some excellent offensive tackling from flanker Ryan Jenkins.

The Mules' second string continue to be force to reckon with and look on course to have yet another successful season and there are a number of players within the squad who could push for first team places.

This week sees the Mules travel to Nantyfyllon, which should be another tough league encounter.

ABOVE: Morgan Griffiths makes a dash for the line, while RIGHT: Dan Jones keeps an eye on a Seven Sisters attacker. ALL PICTURES BY GARY CHAPPELL.

MUMBLES YOUTH 12, KENFIG HILL/CORNELLY YOUTH 23

The Mules' youth gained another fine victory on the road at Underhill Park, Mumbles, which shows they can more than hold their own in the Ospreys A league.

There were three tries from stand-out scrum half Connor Tantum with one conversion and two penalties from Jac Briggs.

There is some fine young talent in the young Mules squad, with more than a few already good enough to make the step up to senior rugby.

DHD

Bridgend golfer lands a hole-in-one

A Bridgend golfer will have no excuse for missing his next tee-time after winning a limited-edition BOSS watch for achieving a hole-in-one.

Leslie Fair, 63, scored his ace on the 141-yard, par-three second at Cottrell Park GC, and the 18-handicapper was rewarded with membership of the exclusive BOSS Watches H1Club and a specially-commissioned, commemorative timepiece.

The luxury German brand has once again pledged to reward club golfers with an exclusive watch for every hole-in-one recorded during a club competition in 2015, after giving away more than £1.5m-worth of limited-edition timepieces since its launch in 2013 - and Fair is among the latest to achieve the feat this year.

The scheme is open to any golfer whose club uses HowDidiDo - a free-to-use, web-based social network for golfers - and anybody playing in official club competitions is eligible. Currently, more than 1,800 clubs use the website.

In addition to the limited-edition watch, Fair joins more than 10,000 members in the BOSS Watches H1Club which offers access to exclusive benefits and merchandise.

No extra registration is required to participate in the BOSS Watches promotion as all official club competitions are recorded on the HowDidiDo system, so holes-in-one are noted and automatically ratified by the golfer's club.